

Minutes of the Ravenna Bryant Community Association

October 4, 2011, Ravenna Bryant Community Center

Attending (RBCA Board of Directors)

Sarah Swanberg

Jorgen Bader

Tony Provine

Nazila Merati

Brett Frosaker

Chris Truppner

Virginia Gunby

Pete Ramels

J. Andrew Miller

Aaron Keating

Rebecca Nelson

Mark Muntifering

Meeting called to order at 7:03

Introductions and Welcome - There was an introduction of current RBCA board and committee members.

Call for volunteers and membership - Sarah Swanberg acknowledged new members who joined and thanked newsletter deliverers for getting out the Fall issue in a timely manner.

Community Resilience - Aaron Keating, who leads RBCA community resilience group, led a discussion about what community resilience means to different people in different situations and asked questions including - Do you know who your block watch captain is?

Some of the issues and thoughts about resiliency and disaster preparedness that were mentioned included

- Definitions of a disaster- an earthquake, suspicious activity around your block, an invasive species of plant invading your yard or neighborhood.
- Resilience is thought of as having self-reliance
- Communicating information – e.g. neighbors moving in and out

- Supporting local businesses
- Making a neighborhood safer, friendlier, keeping a look out for your neighbors (when they are out of town – picking up newspapers and mail)

Ways to build community resilience that were discussed included

- Distributing newsletters
- Organizing community events
- Sharing neighborhood information
- Host or have a Neighborhood or block party – there you can get neighbors to update names, addresses, names of kids and pets
- In the fall, organize a storm drain clean out
- Build a share neighborhood tool library or at least build a tool inventory
- Distribute and promote information about sustainable development – e.g. What the Phinney Center has done
- At a home level – build a family disaster kit or plan with up to date information

How do we do this? Aaron presented the ideal pyramid of community resilience with the base of the family, above it the block, the next block would be the neighborhood as a communication hub and the top would be the city.

We need volunteers and leaders for each block or area to help build community resilience by serving as resilience leads – distribute information (flyers, help disseminate information from RBCA to a neighborhood level, etc.) As a block coordinator, could distribute disaster kit pamphlets along with other material (newsletters) to each household. RBCA has the most number of households in Seattle’s neighborhood areas, so we have a lot of ground to cover.

Aaron and the Community Resilience group will meet at 7:30 the 4th Tuesday of every month at the Third Place Pub. Everyone is welcome to get involved.

Discussion - Someone asked if the newsletter could be delivered electronically? Yes, via the Ravenna Bryant community blog and Facebook, but some people still like to have the hard copy newsletter to review and some community members are not necessarily computer users.

Tony Provine encouraged meeting attendees to become RBCA members by paying annual dues (\$10 individual, \$15 family membership). RBCA is working on a method to send out renewal notices to current members.

Transportation – Sarah Swanberg introduced Virginia Gunby, Transportation Chair for RBCA, who has been active in transportation planning for many years and serves as the 520 Project Community Liaison for RBCA and as the transportation ombudsman for RBCA.

Charles Bookman, Traffic Management Director addressed the RBCA council and community members about some of our concerns.

SDOT provides a lot of different services and has been working in and around RB for the past year. He is happy to report that the 15th NE paving project is completed as well as the approaches to the NE 45th street viaduct. SDOT is just beginning the paving of NE 85th from I-5 to 15th NW and the next cross town project will be NE 105th from Greenwood to Northgate Way. This all can happen because SDOT has completed downtown projects. Money is coming from the Bridging the Gap funding, which is now ending its 5th year.

1/3 of the City's tax revenue is down (sales tax, gas tax and real estate excise tax) and this affects transportation funding. The Seattle City Council has proposed a \$60 per car tab tax to cover shortfalls so that SDOT can deliver services.

Speeding and Traffic Calming – more specifically, 30th NE on the west side of the street (from NE 55th to NE Blakeley). Homeowners say that there is a lot of speeding happening on that stretch of the street. Could traffic calming help? SDOT can give you a radar gun and from the metrics – 85% of the speeders going over the speed limit by 5 miles/hour will get traffic calming, but it is really based on the data that SDOT gets before they can make a decision.

SDOT has found that public education helps – e.g. speed trailers will slow drivers down.

SDOT needs a contact from the neighborhood for traffic calming (RBCA will follow up with SDOT)

Dumpster issues with the Queen Mary Restaurant dumpster on 30th NE – Concern about the dumpster location on 30th NE is still an issue, need to resolve with SPU contact (Hans van Dusen). RBCA and homeowner to follow up on this issue.

16th NE and NE 65th –has a lot of cut through traffic from 15th NE, this is a concern for neighbors with small children (SDOT will follow up).

Other street issues discussed included – 26th and 24th NE – traffic speed. Could the neighbors band together to have a local improvement district? (SDOT to follow up), once again, it was reiterated that the traffic engineers need to see data before official traffic calming can occur.

NE 75th – from 15th ave NE to 25th – is NE 75th one lane or two? There are no stripes, but it is unclear? Many neighborhood streets do not have stripes or markers. Community argues that NE 75th is used as a main arterial, not as a neighborhood street. (SDOT will follow up).

Uncontrolled intersections – speed limit is 25 mph. Shouldn't it be less? No, it is a state law unless a city engineer deems it should be lower.

There are signs that you can put up as you enter streets that say “drive like you live here” - would those help? Mr. Bookman says that as you get to know your neighbors

better, you tend to drive slower in your own neighborhood.

Parking within 30' of a crosswalk – issues with NE 47th and 35th Ave – can this be enforced? (SDOT will work with community member).

Bike thoroughway improvements – will they decrease parking on the street? Seattle bike master plan has designated 36th NE and 39th NE as thoroughways as these are low volume neighborhood streets, will these become neighborhood greenway traffic corridors? What are the improvements? City will update bike master plan (does community have input?). SDOT is putting in more bike lanes on Sand Point Way NE from Children's to Magnuson Park.

Transportation committee meets monthly – 6 PM, the first Tuesday of each month at the RECC, directly before the RBCA monthly meeting. Please come and help out with transportation issues that affect the RBCA.

RBCA Land Use Committee (LUC) – Kick off meeting 10/11 Ida Culver House – time to tba Andrew Miller, LUC chair discussed brought up several issues that affect RBCA.

Update of the Roosevelt Legislative Rezone – on 9/18 the City discussed the proposed change in zoning to the Roosevelt neighborhood. Sustainable/Liveable/Roosevelt has endorsed the plan, which is very dense and what the Roosevelt Neighborhood Association was pushing for. There is now a petition to pass the Roosevelt plan.

On 10/12 the Seattle City Council Committee on the Built Environment (COBE) will hold a hearing on the revised plan. Time of meeting is 9:30 am, place unknown. This is the last time this will be discussed by COBE for the next few months; the City will start focusing on the budget for the next few months.

RBCA –LUC Neighborhood Plans – A neighborhood plan takes about 5-10 years to develop and costs about \$60,000 to write. RB is not on the list of neighborhoods to get a new plan; however, we need a design review process so that RB can control the look and feel of new projects. This is very similar to what the Wedgwood Community has developed. We can look to their plan for guidance.

Design Guideline Development -We need community members to brainstorm Design Guidelines – including surveying the existing commercial districts within the neighborhood to note existing conditions and future designs, especially since there has been an expansion of the commercially zoned areas (e.g. 25th NE and NE 65th).

Donut Hole – The Wedgwood Vision Plan (neighborhood plan) has noted the major commercial district in Wedgwood to include 35th NE from NE 75th to NE 95th). These design guidelines and visions have direct impact of Ravenna Bryant, since we border 35th NE. In Wedgwood's plan, there is an unaffiliated area that is not covered by neither Wedgwood nor RB, which seems to fall within RB jurisdiction. This area – bounded by NE 65th to the South, NE 75th to the North, 35th Ave NE to the West and 40th NE to the East) is known as the “donut hole”. The RBCA board has proposed a change to the by-

laws to incorporate this area into the RB community. This change requires two readings of the change of the by-laws at a monthly meeting (completed) and one reading and adoption by the community at an open meeting (this month).

Discussion about the adoption of the “donut hole” ensued, mostly concerns about neighborhood character and identity. The by-law change was taken and the vote to make changes to incorporate the “donut hole” was approved by the majority.

Low Cost Energy Retrofits - Kelly Stickney from Sustainable Works presented RBCA members with a chance for a low cost home energy audit and retrofits to make homes more energy efficient. This program is funded by the ARRA act, so the time left to participate is running out since the funding is nearly over. The Sustainable Works program works to reduce the barriers between you and doing a home retrofit by packaging up all the audits, services, follow up on tax credits and incentives for the individual home owner or as a group of neighbors. They coordinate all the work, so they reduce the number of interactions/agencies/contractors that the home owner has to deal with. There was some concern about earlier experiences with this company by some members of the community, Kelly assured the community that they are more experienced now and have hired better contractors and streamlined with process. Please contact Kelly at Sustainable Works for more information.

Meeting adjourned at 840.

DRAFT