

**Minutes of the Ravenna Bryant Community Association
November Meeting of the Board of Directors
November 1, 2011
Ravenna Bryant Community Center**

Attending (RBCA Board of Directors)

Sarah Swanberg
Jorgen Bader
Tony Provine
Nazila Merati (reporter)
Brett Frosaker
Chris Truppner
Pete Ramels
J. Andrew Miller
Aaron Keating
Josephine Pompey

Guests-

Rebecca Nelson – Ravenna Blog
Mark Muntifering – SPD Liaison
Pablo Schugurensky
Anna McDonald – Burke Gilman Project Artist
Jason - City of Seattle Office for Art and Cultural Affairs
Earl Gatschmidt
Katie Verhey – Era Living
Chris Loftus

Meeting called to order at 7:03

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

Announcements -

11/9 520 Open House at MOHAI -Opportunity for community design input

Katy Verhey – ERA/Ida Culver House Events

Katy Verhey, the Ida Culver House coordinator announced upcoming events that are open to the community

These include a holiday bazaar on 11/20 11am-4pm and concert on 11/19. For more information on upcoming events, visit their community events page at <http://www.eraliving.com/communities/ravenna/calendar/>.

Ida Culver house can host small meetings and events for RBCA. Katy mentioned that there was not a lot of business representation on the RBCA Board. Would it be a good idea to solicit membership of the R-B business community?

Action: follow up with Katy re: hosting events and reaching out to business owners within the community.

Wedgwood Land Use Community meeting – 11/1 - Per Johnson, from the WCC is intent on a Wedgwood business district all the way to NE 65th and is requesting a legislative rezone to extend Wedgwood to NE 65th. Pablo is attending for RBCA and will report back on the outcome of the meeting. Councilmembers Clark and Conlin are joining Per and others on a walk through on 12/6.

Land Use Committee – On 10/11 the RBCA Land Use Committee met at Ida Culver House. They are planning to walk the 25th Ave NE to 35th Ave NE blocks of the NE 55th St. business district.

Webmaster – Becky Pezley of the RBCA LUC has offered to act as backup webmaster for the RBCA website.

Minutes – Minutes of the October 2011 Community Meeting were approved as final and will be uploaded to the website.

Treasurer's Report – The RBCA account currently has \$2210.88 in the account with a few outstanding bills.

WSDOT Peninsula Letter – RBCA requests that the City of Seattle asks for the WSDOT peninsula now before it is exceded by the State of Washington. RBCA moved to approve letter and send similar letter via NEDC.

Action – Jorgen gives letter to Sarah, she edits it and sends it to Nazila for final edits and to send off to City Council.

Bylaws and RBCA Organizational Issues

Sarah has reviewed the mission statement and bylaws including the duties of the Officers. Do we need to revise the mission statement of the organization to include some newer facets of our mission e.g. future development?

Clarification of Board of Director Duties

Article 5 – Duties of Officers – We are missing the 2nd Vice President whose role it is to maintain membership lists and work on community development for RBCA. The role includes maintaining database of active members, lists of those who serve on various committees and maintaining and creating maps of RBCA boundaries along with other tasks.

Should we nominate someone or recruit someone to serve in this capacity?

Reviewed tasks of the RBCA Secretary – Secretary should keep a permanent file of Board business and records, conduct clerical services and be responsible for corporate correspondence along with work with communications committee.

Is the development of promotional materials part of this position? Is this better served by the members of the Communications Committee? Promotional materials discussed include a handout about the RBCA that we can distribute to local businesses, much like what Wedgwood has developed and street signage that denotes the boundaries of the R-B neighborhood. The Communications Committee will review different ways to increase membership and communicate with community at their next meeting on 11/15.

Burke-Gilman Trail Art Project

Jason Huff, manager of the B-G Trail project introduced Anna McDonald, the artist selected to create the art works that will be on display along the trail from 25th ave NE to Magnuson Park. Anna introduced herself to the Board and discussed meetings she is planning on having with the community to get input about what they like about the trail. She is planning on walking portions of the trail and invites community members to come along with her. The Board asked questions about trail access and if Anna was planning on coordinating with Children's Hospital's trail mitigation project. Questions about safety, e.g. clearing shrubbery or slowing down bikes were brought up. Will the project link with the proposed City Greenways? Concerns about how the trail is used were brought up – for some the trail is just a throughway and has utility, but not really seen as a place of art and serenity. Could the art project be made to be kid friendly? The question was raised if the installations could be coupled with existing park areas or seating areas?

Could the art be used to slow people down and have them experience the trail differently? The scale and linearity of the trail is also an issue that Anna will have to contend with in her design of the art pieces.

Next steps – meet and walk the trail. Stay tuned for public input meetings.

Committee Reports

Treasurer's report was given earlier.

Transportation report minutes were sent out by email.

Land Use Committee report was sent out by email.

SPD Community Report – Daytime break-ins near Hay's Park were reported. Tips from Wedgwood View and neighbors helped capture the suspect who has previously been arrested for armed robbery. Neighbors are asked to keep an eye on suspicious activity and report it to be safe. Neighbors used a communication tree to warn neighbors.

Education Committee – Chris Truppner is leading this effort. R-B is surrounded by schools, we should reach out and enlist educators to serve on the Board as well as work to put together school supply and food drives through our schools to benefit our community food banks and families in need.

Wedgwood Meeting update- Pablo arrived to update the RBCA Board on the outcome of the Wedgwood Land Use/Planning Zoning meeting that happened during our meeting. Pablo spoke on behalf of RBCA and reiterated RBCA’s wishes that Wedgwood stay within their boundaries and stick to their original intent. If that occurs, RBCA will support the Wedgwood Vision Plan. Wedgwood plans to designate itself as an urban neighborhood village – can this go forward as the WCC has no administrative or legislative authority.

Cleanscapes- Ravenna-Bryant/NE Seattle won the \$50K Cleanscapes award. RBCA and others will brainstorm about possible projects that would benefit from these funds. Meeting adjourned at 850 pm.

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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 throughway improvements – will they decrease parking on the street? Seattle bike master plan has designated 36th NE and 39th NE as throughways 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.