

RNA October 12, 2020 Minutes

Minutes by Allen Field

Meeting via Zoom was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair Debby Hochhalter.

Board Members Present: Debby Hochhalter, Brian Hochhalter, Allen Field, Kamal Belkhat, Peter Forrest, Claire Cofsky, Denise Hare, Simon Kipersztok, Albert Kaufman, Heather Flint Chatto

Board Members Absent: JoAnne Knowles, Madeleine Anderson-Clark, Leslie Poston

Others Present: Doug Klotz, Dennis Hopkins, Katharine Wannamaker, Salma Huque, Amanda Fritz, Lisa Bozzetti, Julia Barron, Gordon Robinson, Tamra Farris

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Amanda Fritz Presentation: (With Commissioner Fritz's limited availability, Minutes Adoption and Announcements were delayed.) She described 3 ballot measures sponsored by the City of Portland and encouraged people to vote for them: 26-213 (Parks Levy), 26-217 (independent community police oversight board), and 26-219 (Council approval over uses of Water Bureau property).

Q&A followed:

- Julia Barron and Gordon Robinson brought up safety concerns over homeless camp at SE 33rd and Waverly Blvd and asked what city could do. Fritz mentioned the city distributed 100 porta-potties around city, state and Co. health departments directed moratorium on removing camps, and Julia should send an email to Fritz and cc Robert King in Mayor's office about the issue.
- Denise Hare asked her thoughts on the Mayor's race, who she endorses and why.
- Simon Kipersztok asked who decides how money is spent if Parks levy passes (Fritz left at 7pm)

September Meeting Minutes: Brian moved, Heather 2nd, passes unanimously with Kamal abstaining

Announcements:

- Albert announced elections zoom party
- Debby announce Red Cross training with Richmond NET Oct 26, 6:30pm via Zoom
- Denise mentioned that Vibe, tenant at SE Uplift's property on Division left, and SEUL Bd in past had focus on renovating property
- Heather announced that Oct 26 is deadline to register for the Oct 27 PSC hearing on the changes to the Historic Resources Code

Crime & Safety: No officer present.

AGENDA ITEMS continued:

2. \$1,000 Donation Request by Albert to Equitable Giving Circle: Albert described Equitable Giving Circle (www.equitablegivingcircle.org) focus on assisting Portland's BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities. With approximately \$20,000 in RNA accounts, far above what some other NAs have in funds, the RNA should spend its money to help others. He asked the Board to vote to donate \$1,000 to Equitable Giving Circle and to start a policy of donating \$1,000/month for 10 months to various charitable causes in Portland.

- Allen pointed out that the RNA lost its primary fundraiser, the Spring Cleanup, which is how it was able to grow its funds to \$20,000, raising \$600 - \$1,500 a year. With the loss of that annual revenue generator and possible added costs in future of paying for D&O insurance for Board (in light of push to change Code 3.96) Board needs to be careful in preserving its funds. Board also needs to be guided by its Mission and Donations Guidelines in donating funds, which puts a focus on projects and residents in Richmond. In past, Board has spent funds hiring attorney to block McDonalds at 34th and Hawthorne and discussed spending \$ to help build a community garden which could be \$5,000 or more contributions. Also, \$5,000 in the account represents funds raised for movies in Sewallcrest park. Historically, donation requests have always come from the ground up, from people or organizations in or related to Richmond asking for funds, it hasn't originated from Board Members seeking donations to their organizations or causes of choice.

- Brian stated that the Board needs to be careful in how it spends and preserves its money. Equitable Giving Circle website encourages people to do fundraising for its programming, he suggested the RNA could be involved in some sort of fundraiser with them.

- Simon stated the RNA should be frugal in how it spends its funds and brought up idea of designating some funds for investment purposes and use earning for charity.

- Heather suggested we could discuss charitable giving ideas at a Board retreat, perhaps the Board could form a Giving Committee.

- Salma asked what has the Board spent its money on and is there a set goal for what it's balance should be. Allen explained: there are annual expenses such as state corporate fees, annual cleanup was largest expense, groups routinely requested donations in past up to \$350 or \$500 for such items as PTA projects, community garden requests, farmers markets, porta potties for street fairs, Tree Planting expenses, Newsletter was large expense. No set goal for account balances.

3. Historic Resources Code Update – letter request. Heather summarized key issues and proposed changes in update to Historic Resources Code which governs process for adding or removing items from Historic Resources inventory:

- Conservation Historic District decisions would shift to Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC)
- Simplifies what gets historic review (e.g. garages and small structures will not be reviewed)
- More flexibility in adaptive reuse options
- More allowances for solar panels
- Removes unranked historic resources from inventory list
- Eliminates parking requirements for landmark
- Add Demolition Review to Conservation Districts which would give more public input and formal review than the current 120-Demo Delay policy.

Heather recommended Board take following position:

1. Authority for who decides/recommends to City Council: Landmarks Commission or PSC
 - Support retaining lead role of Landmarks Commission in creating Conservation or Historic Designation
2. Support Solar Panel changes
3. Support Demolition Review for contributing structures within Conservation Districts
4. Need a clear pathway for communities to form new districts
5. Encourage PSC Recommend 2016 Low Rise Commercial Vintage Buildings Study as priority for consideration of future districts
6. Timing to give input is not sufficient to dig into code – recommend extending timeline for comments.

Motion by Heather to send comment letter incorporating recommended points and with additions and revisions to be finalized at October 22 Land Use meeting and letter to be sent subject to Board approval. Simon 2nd. Passes unanimously. There was discussion how and when to get Board approval to send letter in time to be sent by Oct 26. There will be an effort to get quorum at 10/22 meeting so Board can vote then on final letter, if no quorum then special board meeting or Executive Committee action necessary,

4. Richmond Newsletter: November 1 deadline for articles. He’s learning InDesign, Heather offered to help with InDesign. Will have draft newsletter for November meeting. Solicited articles via NextDoor and listserve. Kamal suggested putting in notice urging residents to be more mindful of using fossil fuels

Committee Reports

- **Treasurer** – Simon gave balances:

	Balance as of 9/30/20	Previous Month
Business Checking Plus	\$12,706.45	\$13,818.68
1 year CD	\$ 6,378.32	\$6,373.08

Business Shares	\$5	\$5
Total	\$ 19,089.77	\$20,196.76

- **Annual Tree Planting** (1st Saturday in December): Allen reported that Friends of Trees is still assessing. If they do a planting it will be limited to 25 people and be all outdoors for the registration activities. Haven't heard any more updates
- **Richmond Cleanup:** No report.
- **Richmond Ready:** No report, no coordinator
- **Sustainability Committee** (Kamal) – Will submit short piece for newsletter
- **Land Use/Planning/Transportation & Land Use:** (Heather)
- **PDX Main Street Design Initiative representative** – (Heather) HAND Re-adopted Division St Guidelines (now rebranded as the PDX Main Streets) for all seven of their main streets including Division, Hawthorne, Powell, 11th, 12th, MLK and Grand. Applied for a Metro Placemaking Grant in partnership with We All Rise to create a Toolkit for Neighborhood Design and a “train the trainers” program.
- **Hawthorne Blvd Bus. Association Representative:** (Heather) HBBA relocated the peace poles from the Hawthorne hostel (it is now closed). The poles moved to upper Hawthorne with a dedication ceremony. HBBA submitted a Venture Portland grant for streetscape design plan and a BIPOC Popup Marketplace for Hawthorne. HBBA is working on a street plaza project at 37th and Hawthorne adjacent to the Baghdad. Heather suggested we may want to consider a small donation to the HBBA project and will ask HBBA to present next month.
- **Division/Clinton Business Association Representative** – Leslie not present, no report.
- **Hawthorne Blvd Bus. Association Representative:** (Heather) HBBA submitted a Venture Portland grant for streetscape design plan. Applied for a Metro place making. They are looking at doing a placemaking project at 37th and Hawthorne.
- **SE Examiner Neighborhood Notes Writer** - Minutes-taker (Allen) will write it.
- **Richmond Newsletter Editor** – See above
- **SEUL Rep.:** Allen mentioned that a Bylaws Amendment Committee was formed. In the Announcements, Denise had mentioned that the tenant at Vibe had left the property owned by SEUL on Division.
- **Sewallcrest Park/Community Spaces:** Allen reported that many people are using the park for outdoor gathering/socializing area.
- **Liquor Licenses:** Allen – nothing to report

Meeting adjourned 8:40, next RNA Meeting November 9, 2020