

Richmond Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 13, 2023, 7 – 9 PM pm

Minutes taker: Ann Sandvig

Audio link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EsF4s8Ob8_ODjr_pNXtNKCEfMjMKARUC/view

7:00 pm start, Quorum present

Board Members Present: Debby Hochhalter, Allen Field, Brian Hochhalter, Heather Flint Chatto, Claire Cofsky, Simon Kipersztok, Madeline Anderson-Clark, Ann Sandvig

Absent Board Members: Kamal Belkhaty, Hope Townsell, JoAnne Knowles,

Others Present: Morgan Towle, Albert kaufman, Tamara Metz, Loni Gray, Claude Sakr, Cynthia Langlykke, John Imon Pedtke, Bill Dwyer, Renee Hendricks, Dennis

Ground Rules/Purpose: Debby read Ground Rules and Purpose

Land Acknowledgement: Heather read the Land acknowledgment from [website richmondpx.org](http://richmondpx.org).

Adoption of February Minutes: Board reviewed edits emailed in by Heather just prior to meeting. Except for change in title of DEIA Committee in the proposed edits, and Allen will insert “stated” in front of Claude Sakr comments re Peaceful Villa agenda item, **Allen moved/ Brian seconded to adopt. Passed unanimously**

Announcements:

- Allen: RNA’s Annual Spring Clean Up is scheduled for May 20, 9 am to 1 pm, at Central Christian Church with 5 dumpsters. This is a free event and will include bulky waste, U-Price It rummage sale and plant sale. Need more volunteers - 3 shifts from 8:30 to 3:00 - pizza lunch and snacks will be provided.. A dumpster will be at Peaceful Villa May 19th and will also take electronics and styrofoam. Hoping to do Household HazMat collection on May 19 - waiting to hear from Metro.
- Allen: The Movie in the Park is scheduled for August 19 in Sewallcrest Park - the movie will be Hidden Figures.
- Heather: Large attendance at Open House last Saturday regarding the Peaceful Villa renovation.
- Heather: Planning to reinvigorate the Land Use Committee (LUTC) with Claude Sakr as the co-chair with the next meeting on April 4. Meetings will be held the 4th Wednesday of the month. Heather will add the meeting information to the RNA web site.
- Debby: Is involved with the Public Environment Management Office (PEMO). Graffiti can be reported at <https://www.portland.gov/bps/graffiti/report-graffiti> . The more reports received at a site the sooner it will be cleaned up. Currently have funding for clean up but they don’t know how long that will last. PEMO is having a walkabout on Division this coming Friday. Debby and others will attend.
- Debby: FarmHouse Carts are open behind Cibo, SE 35th & Division - it’s a beautiful space and really great.

Old Business:

- Debby: The RNA Board social was held at Little Beast on February 27th - good food and fun.

- Heather: RNA's Instagram site is up @ RichmondNAPDX. Hoping to reach a younger crowd. Will be added to the RNA website. Send Heather photos to share.

Police Report: No officer present

AGENDA

1. **Treasurer's Report:** Simon gave his report early - RNA has close to \$20,000. Debby asked about a \$20 debit to DOJ. Claire asked about a couple \$150 expenditures for the newsletter.
2. **Albert Kaufman Running for District 3 Multnomah County Commissioner:** He is on the SEUL board and still active in the neighborhood with his long time projects around air pollution, noise pollution and trees. In running his campaign, he has started a newsletter in which he is providing people with action items regarding these issues. The campaign has been a great opportunity for him to reach out to people and reconnect with lots of different people and learn a lot about the district we live in from a different point of view. See his web site: <http://albertkaufman.com>, for his positions on various issues most which are generally around livability issues. **Questions:** Lonnie asked what specific goals he would like to achieve? Allen asked what he thinks are the top 3 things that the county should do to address homelessness? Allen asked that if there is a three-way debate let the RNA know so that we can pass it along.
3. **Morgan Towle with Neighbors for Clean Air (NCA):** NCA has been working in the Portland area for 12 years trying to clean up our toxic air. She encourages people to reach out to them if they have an air quality issue which is how they get a lot of their work. Morgan stated that Multnomah County is in the bottom 2% of counties in the nation for air quality based on diesel pollution and Oregon is the second most polluted state in the country. Multnomah County has high levels of particulate matter from diesel pollution. It is very damaging to people's physical and mental health, especially kids. It is also very climate warming. Diesel pollution comes mainly from unregulated sources such as construction sites, trucks, trains etc. NCA works through grassroots organizing such as neighborhood meetings and good-neighbor agreements. NCA is also very active in the legislative process - just found out that some of their bills are not moving forward. Their web site is <https://neighborsforcleanair.org/>. **Questions:** Ann asked if the data shows that Oregonians are less healthy because of air pollution? Albert asked about the proposed huge distribution center in Argay Terrace. Brian asked about a previous presentation from NCA in which the focus was on trucks without good filtering and since Oregon rules are laxer than California's we get theirs and also the issues of regulating Amazon and other delivery service's truck because they go through subcontractors - is wondering how they are dealing with those problems? Lonnie asked about the bills that were stopped.
4. **Announce May Board Elections:** There are 8 seats up for election - next year there will be 7. Must be at least 18 years old and live, or own property or a business in the Richmond Neighborhood. Those interested need to announce their candidacy by April 10, candidate statements are due 21 days before the election. It was discussed when and how to hold the election. Pre-Covid, election was held the night of the RNA meeting. With Covid, we held elections the past 3 years the night after the Monday May meeting with people voting or dropping off ballots at the church meeting site on Tuesday. The choice is: hold the election the night of an in-person May 8 meeting, as we did pre-Covid, or hold the election the day after (Tuesday), as we've done with Covid. **Heather made a motion to hold the election May 8th, the night of the in-person May meeting/Ann seconded.** **Questions:** Renee asked about verifying voters' residency and turnout numbers. Allen explained: voting would

be 6-8pm on May 8, with RNA meeting 7-9pm, so people can hear candidate statements then vote by 8pm. Under ONI Standards, we can hold election open for 24 hours so we can have 2nd voting opportunity 6-8pm Tuesday at church. Renee asked about accessibility for all neighbors. Heather asked about doing it as part of the clean-up; Ann said there is too much going on to do it at Cleanup. Lonnie asked about an alternative to live votes. Brian asked about details of logistics of voting the night of the meeting. Heather asked about holding voting longer. **Passed unanimously.**

5. **Form Election Committee.** Allen discussed forming the election committee. **Allen made a motion to form an election committee with Heather, Allen, Dennis and others not up for election/ Ann seconded. Passed unanimously.**
6. **Amending of the Election Standing Rules:** Allen summarized the proposed changes. Questions are asked by Debby and Heather. **Brian made a motion to amend the Election Standing Rules as proposed/Allen seconded. Passed unanimously.**
7. **Fiscal Sponsorship:** Allen explained that every year we apply for fiscal sponsorship from SEUL. RNA is an Oregon non-profit but not a 503(c)(3) tax exempt entity so we need to borrow a 503(c)(3) number to solicit donations and some entities require it for grants. Fiscal sponsorship is just to borrow SEUL's tax number. SEUL used to do it by project but now it fiscally sponsors the entire entity. They charge \$50 per year which Allen thinks is too much if all the tax # is used for is for in-kind donations. RNA just joined S2C2 - (Southeast Sustainable Community Coalition <https://www.S2C2Pdx.org/>) and Heather will be our rep. They are in the process of forming a fiscal sponsorship program. Allen recommends that we renew our application with SEUL (due March 18) and when S2C2 finalizes their fiscal sponsorship we transfer to them and ask SEUL to transfer any of our funds that they are holding to S2C2. Questions are asked by Renee, Brian and Ann. **Allen makes a motion to do a fiscal sponsorship renewal with SEUL now and when S2C2 gets approved for fiscal sponsorship bring it back to the board regarding switching to them based on their program/Ann seconded. Passed unanimously.**
8. **When to Resume In-Person Meetings:** Debby proposed resuming in-person meetings next month but in a hybrid format with use of the OWL camera/microphone technology. The OWL has a camera moves around and shows whoever is speaking. The biggest issue with it is if people talk over each other, remote viewers can't hear what is being said. **Heather made a Motion to resume in-person meetings with a hybrid tool in April 2023/Clair seconded. Passed unanimously.** A discussion followed about the OWL - Debby's understanding is that SEUL will reimburse us for it, Allen will confirm. A demo of the product can be seen on You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_duZc5DZ2c&ab_channel=OwlLabs Allen gives a more in-depth description of the OWL and recommends that we buy either the discounted OWL Pro and maybe 2 at \$600 each or one OWL 3 at \$1050. **Debby made a motion to authorize purchasing 1 or 2 Owls with approval of up to \$1,200/Allen seconded.** Questions are asked by Maddy and Brian. **Passed unanimously.**
9. **Committee Reports**
 - **Treasurer:** See Simon's report above.
 - **RNA Newsletter:** Newsletter just went out, Debby received a lot of positive feedback. Need more people to deliver it. Allen is talking with manager at Salt & Straw to give a 2-for-price-of-1 coupon to each person that delivers newsletters.
 - **Community Spaces:** Movie in the park - August 19.
 - **SEUL Rep:** Allen reported that they have lots of training and events going on - see SEUL's E-Newsletter.
 - **Cleanup:** Already covered

- **Richmond Ready:** Debby reached out to the NET to see if we have a rep which we don't - they will appoint one and let us know.
- **Climate Change:** Heather is going to be working with Sustainable SE Community Coalition to document where all of the solar is happening.
- **Land Use and Transportation:** Heather gave an update on the Peaceful Villa open house the prior weekend with over 100 in attendance. Lots of positive feedback.
- **PDX Main Street Design Initiative Rep.** No report.
- **HBBA:** Debby noted that their 40th anniversary celebration will be March 16th at Bread & Ink. HBBA is working with PEMO to get more lighting on Hawthorne.
- **Liquor Licenses/GNAs:** No report.
- **DEIA:** No report.
- **Houselessness:** No report.

Meeting adjourned 9:11