

RNA April 2012 General Meeting Minutes

Paul M. called the April 10 General Meeting to order at 7:01 pm. 44 people were in attendance.

Board members present: Kathleen Blevins, Ted Carlston, Angela Carpenter, David Drouin, Nancy Fredricks, Denise Gorrell, Eric Gorrell, David Lochelt, Nancy Mensch, Paul Mooring, Connie Pilcher, Bob Price, Jessica Reese, Peggy Sullivan, Lindsey Wise and Julia Wojciechowski.

Neighbors Present: 21 (excluding four guest speakers)

Volunteers Present: Bonnie LaDoe and Catherine Wilson

Additions to the Agenda:

- Translation of Newsletter into Vietnamese
- Roseway Intersection Graphics (i.e., street mural)
- Movies in the Park

Approval of March 2012 Minutes: Paul M. moved and Eric G. seconded. Motion carried with corrections noted by Nancy M.

Treasurer's report: Nancy F. reported \$5,433.45 in the bank.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

CNN Update:

- Nancy F. reported the following:
 - CNN's program budget was cut only 5% for this year;
 - KATU (Channel 2) is looking for a speaker with the Office of Neighborhood Involvement;
 - The RNA newsletters need to be run by CNN for approval before they are printed; and
 - The Rose City Park Neighborhood Association is holding their own "Concert in Park," organized and funded by the association itself.

Land Use Update:

- Bob P. reported that the Dharma Rain Zen Center ("DRZC") has signed a purchase money agreement for the eastern one-half of the landfill across from Glenhaven Park (approximately 13.75 acres of land.) The DRZC sent speakers to the Madison South Neighborhood Association and CNN, and were well received by each. Bob P. stated that the DRZC will want to send a speaker to a future RNA meeting.
 - Bob P. also disclosed that he works as an advisor for the DRZC.
- Bob P. also reported that there is another entity interested in purchasing western one-half of the property, but he does not know its name.

- Angela C. and Julia W. reported that they attended the Madison South meeting and learned that SmartCentres, a Canadian real estate development company that has contributed to the expansion of Walmart in Canada, is interested in buying the western one-half for development. However, Madison South relayed to SmartCentres it is interested in considering SmartCentres' proposal only if Walmart is not part of the development plan.

Transportation Update:

- Julia W. reported that the Transportation Committee has not yet met this year.

Clean Up:

- Denise G. reported that she is the volunteer coordinator for the Clean Up and requested that neighbors sign up for volunteer timeslots.
- Jessica R. confirmed that there will be container for plastics at the Clean Up.
- Eric G. discussed the logistical problems caused by the City's and subcontractors' use of the Nazarene Church parking lot since the Sandy Blvd. re-paving project will not be done before May 19. Eric G. reported that he spoke to the head pastor of the church and was assured that RNA could utilize the unoccupied portion of the church parking lot. The lack of space may cut down on participants (and there are also two other neighborhood Clean Ups on that day) and RNA will need to be wary of blocking traffic. Eric G. will create site plan for CNN review and touch base with the church pastor again.
 - Catherine W. asked if side streets could be blocked off to create additional room. Eric G. stated that that would be possible, but RNA would need to obtain a permit and he believed the neighbors of the side streets would object.

Metro and BPS Logo Concerns:

- Paul M. reported that because RNA mistakenly failed to put the logos for Metro and BPS into the spring newsletter announcing the Clean Up, Metro and BPS threatened to pull their funding. Paul M. stated he will be working with Metro and BPS to ensure that funds are not withheld and to assure them that their logos will be included in the newsletter before the next Clean Up.

Concert in the Park:

- Angela C. reported that she has obtained pledges from several local businesses for the concert and if the pledges are fulfilled, RNA will have sufficient funds to hold the concert. Angela also applied for a Multnomah County Cultural Grant to secure additional funds.
- Angela C. also reported that she reached out to Madison South to co-sponsor the concert. She was not well received, but stated she will try again soon.
- Finally, Angela C. reported that she went to the Concordia Neighborhood Association meeting as Concordia holds five concerts each year at Fernhill Park, each concert normally funded through "kickstart" campaigns. However, Concordia reported that they are having difficulty funding their concerts this year.

Movies in the Park:

- Paul M. reported that he finally heard back regarding RNA’s application to hold a Movie in the Park. RNA will screen the last Harry Potter film on Saturday, September 1 at Wellington Park.

ROSEWAY BUSINESS:

5/27 Rain Garden Workshop – Albina Headstart:

- Paul M. reported that he is coordinating with the Rose City Park Neighborhood Association to hold a workshop (at Albina Headstart) on how to start a nature scape or rain garden.

Portland Sunday Parkways – 5/13:

- Paul M. reported that Portland Sundays Parkways goes through the Cully neighborhood this year on May 13, and unfortunately not through the Roseway neighborhood.

Twitter Anyone?:

- Paul M. asked if anyone had problem with creating an RNA Twitter feed for the purpose of drawing more traffic to the RNA webpage.
 - Peggy S. stated that a Twitter feed would add to the electronic “air pollution,” but did not object. Eric G. suggested using Pinterest instead (although that apparently requires a Twitter account.)
 - No Board Member objected to the creation of an RNA Twitter feed.

NEW BUSINESS TO CONSIDER AT FUTURE MEETINGS?:

Translation of Newsletter into Vietnamese:

- David L. reported that the spring newsletter article written by Ngoc-Lan Phan was well received by the Vietnamese community, and the local Vietnamese community organization found someone to translate the newsletter. David L. asked for and received approval from the Board to look into estimated translation costs.
 - Denise G. stated that CNN may have funds available to cover translation costs.

Roseway Intersection Graphics (i.e., street mural)

- Catherine W. reported that an artist has designed a mural to be painted at the intersection of NE 77th Ave. and NE Beech St. Pending approval of the mural design by the City (expected on April 11), the mural will be painted on Saturday, June 2. A pizza party and power wash of the intersection will be held on Friday evening, June 1.
- Catherine W. requested volunteers for the project and stated that an e-mail will go out after approval of the design by the City.

WELCOME SPEAKERS:

Maria Lowe – Gregory Heights Librarian (Summer Reading Program)

- Maria Lowe is the youth librarian at Gregory Heights Library. She discussed this year's Summer Reading Program (which starts on June 15), including participation requirements, prizes for child readers, and volunteer statistics from previous year's program.
 - Ms. Lowe also fielded neighbor questions about the program.
- Ms. Lowe reported that the Library will have a small float at the Junior Rose Parade on June 7 and invited all neighbors to march with the Library. Participants will meet at about NE 53rd Ave. and NE Sandy Blvd. at 1pm.

Nikkie West – Portland Audubon Society:

- Nikkie West manages the Society's Certified Backyard Habitat Program. She provided information about the program as well as general information regarding Portland area's extensive fish and wildlife species and habitat.
- Ms. West also fielded questions from the neighbors about how to begin the certification process, what the certification covers (both backyard and front yard habitats), the current number of participants in the Roseway neighborhood (eight), and the overall participation in the Portland Area (1100 properties, including 350-plus properties already certified).

Friends of Trees:

- Paul M. reported that over 270 trees were planted in Roseway neighborhood this year.

Fritz Hirsch – IRCO (Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization)

- Fritz Hirsch is the program manager at IRCO, and works at the recently opened Asian Family Center located at NE 80th Ave. and NE Sandy Blvd.
- Mr. Hirsch provided general information regarding IRCO: that it is a 150 employee organization with its main office located at NE 103rd Ave. and NE Glisan St., and that it has programs for education, civic engagement and utilities payment assistance.
 - Mr. Hirsch stated that most of IRCO's programs are open to everyone – not just immigrants and refugees – and invited neighbors to visit the organization to see what it does. (There will be an open house on Friday, May 11.)
- Mr. Hirsch addressed neighborhood concerns about the parking/traffic problems at the Asian Family Center and asked neighbors to help find solutions to these problems. Mr. Hirsch stated that the Center was holding a public meeting on Wednesday, April 18 to discuss the problems.
- Mr. Hirsch also fielded questions from the neighbors regarding the number of clients served per day (five to ten), their nationalities (Vietnamese, Hmong, some African groups), where clients park (either in the lot or on the street), how many employees the Center has (roughly 35), how much of an impact employees have on the parking situation (most of the employees park in the Center's lot or on the street), and how IRCO is funded (they receive funds from the federal government, Multnomah County and donations from other foundations).
- Finally, Mr. Hirsch reported that IRCO has applied for anti-graffiti grants to improve

the general appearance of their offices, including the Asian Family Center.

Damien Magista – Bee Local

- Damien Magista from Bee Local did not attend the meeting.

James Barta: on behalf of Helen Ying

- James Barta, a representative for Helen Ying, a candidate for Metro Council District #5, spoke briefly regarding Ms. Ying's candidacy.

Final Business: Next General Meetings

- The July 10 General Meeting will be held at the Park Blocks for the Ice Cream Social
- The October General Meeting and Board Elections will be held on October 9.

Paul M. adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Mensch, Secretary