

Richmond Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 10, 2022, 7 – 9 PM

Minutes taker: Ann

Audio link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cOh7Hudb6LzEW_WZD0rpFUkuqSPGDHzw/view

7:02 start, Quorum present

Board Members Present: Claire Cofsky, Allen Field, Brian Hochhalter, Heather Flint Chatto, Debby Hochhalter, Simon Kipersztok, Richard Bruno, Ann Sandvig

Absent Board Members: Kamal Belkhatay, Madeline Anderson-Clark, Hope Townsell, JoAnne Knowles,

Others Present: Michele Veenker, David Brink, Loni Gray, Nancy Chapin, Gordon Hillesland, Nanette Curtis

Ground Rules/Purpose: Debby read Ground rules

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

Adoption of September Minutes: **Brian moved/ Allen seconded. Passed unanimously** (Simon and Ann abstained). Heather asked that the ground rules and land acknowledgement be included in the minutes. Allen suggested that the meeting ground rules be listed on our website and we include a link to them in the minutes, as we started doing with the Land Acknowledgement a few months ago

Announcements:

- Debby announced that there will be a Community Safety Forum at next month's meeting which will include representatives from the Neighborhood Response Team, Community Safety, PEMO and possibly someone from the Street Service Coordination Center.
- Healthier announced that SEUL is hosting a Charter Commission Forum on Thursday, October 13 at 7:00 pm regarding the new ballot measure for charter reform. City Club is hosting a similar forum on Friday but will likely have different speakers.

Old Business: Nothing reported

Police Report: No officer present

AGENDA

1. **Letter re Safety Issues at SE 26th & Powell:** Debby asked if we wanted to write a letter about safety and the tragic bike/semi accident that killed Sarah Pliner. SEUL has written a letter that we can sign on - Debby read the letter. A Community Safety Forum will be held at Cleveland HS on October 20th @ 6 pm - PBOT, ODOT, PPS will be there among others. **Simon made a motion** to join SEUL's letter, **Ann seconded.** Allen didn't think that Inner SE Action should be a signatory since they are not a neighborhood association like all the other signers besides SEUL, and SEUL represent and sign on behalf of all non-NA SEUL board members. **Passed** - all voted yes except Allen no, Brian sustained.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Simon gave his report early - RNA has \$13,000+ in a Money Market Account with an interest rate of .05%, plus a CD of about \$6,000+ with an interest rate of about .01% at Rivermark. Simon proposed moving the money to online CDs and Money Market/Savings accounts with interest rates ranging from 2.25% to 3.25% and presented

several examples. **Simon made a motion** that he, along with Allen as Secretary, choose the institutions and transfer the funds. **Brian seconded, passed unanimously.** Allen listed other options we wanted to consider in picking an institution. Heather noted that last year we donated money to a local indigenous organization and wanted to discuss donating to another indigenous organization. Simon noted that that donation was from the proceeds of a lawsuit. Allen stated that this should be a scheduled agenda item and preferably the organization is in our neighborhood.

3. **Family Promise of Metro East:** Michele Veenker from Family Promise and David Brink, the pastor of Central Christian Church, gave an interesting presentation on the issues surrounding family homelessness and the work of both of these organizations in helping families facing homelessness. Michele stated that 35% of the homeless are families, including many students. They discussed contributing issues, the impact on society, the services provided by each organization and volunteer opportunities available. Web sites: <https://www.facebook.com/FamilyPromiseMetroEast/> <https://www.familypromisemetroeast.org/> Heather noted that it would be good to add resources such as this to our website.
4. **Public Environmental Management Office (PEMO):** Debby stated that this is a new City of Portland office with the mission to clean and beautify our city, now. Debby and Nancy Chapin went out and identified areas of concern in our neighborhood. Debby wanted to know if anyone would volunteer to attend their meetings twice a month. Loni, a member of the public and new to the area, said she would be interested. Debby enthusiastically accepted her offer.
5. **RNA Newsletter:** Matt has resigned as newsletter editor and as board member due to personal/work issues. He has digitized all of the old newsletters and put together a guide to aid the next editor. RNA is looking for a new newsletter editor. Thank you Matt for doing a great job.

Committee Reports

- **Treasurer:** See Simon's report above.
- **RNA Newsletter:** See Agenda item #5 above.
- **Community Spaces:** Allen stated that a fall community garden work party will be held Oct. 15th.
- **SEUL Rep:** Allen reported: the deadline to apply for a grant through SEUL is Nov. 22nd; SEUL community small grants are for \$300-4,900; IDEA Communication grants up to \$1,000; workshops to apply for a grant are Oct. 23 and Nov. 6th. SEUL is holding a Charter Forum Oct 13th and a Nature Scaping event Nov 10th @ 10 am. Allen discussed the ruling received from Civic Life on his appeal of SEUL's ruling to his April grievance - they ruled in favor of 2 out of the 3 grievance issues presented. Allen emailed a copy of the letter ruling to the RNA board. Allen filed another grievance on Sept 6th with SEUL over their continued refusal to seat him, in violation of the ONI Standards, as confirmed by Civic Life's ruling on his April Grievance. SEUL issued their opinion last week and he will appeal. He emailed an objection and a supplemental memo about Kat West being as the Chair of the SEUL Grievance Committee due to her obvious bias. The RNA previously voted not to have a SEUL Rep. on their Board for the time being. Debby received a letter from Nanci Champlin asking that RNA appoint a different rep to the SEUL board. Nancy Chaplin believes that Civic Life's letter ruling was shared with the whole SEUL board, Allen doesn't believe that it was and will do a records request for it. Issues surrounding mediation were discussed.

- **Annual Tree planting:** Allen informed us that it doesn't appear that Friends of Trees is doing neighborhood tree plantings, but the city is offering two free trees to anyone who wants them. Heather said she read that FOT is still doing tree plantings - Allen will follow up on that.
- **Cleanup:** We can apply for Metro sponsorship of up to \$5,000 for the cleanup now and will start planning for the next clean up in January. Allen will look into what grants are available through the city.
- **Richmond Ready:** Vacant
- **Sustainability and Climate Change:** Heather discussed the solar kiosks recently delivered to a houseless village in NE Portland. Solar panels are arriving Oct 11.
- **Land Use and Transportation:** Vacant
- **HBBA Rep.:** The International Day of Peace was held on Sept 21st which Debby described as a lovely event which included Ukrainian singers. Work is being done on adding an additional pole to include Ukraine.
- **PDX Main Street Design Initiative Rep.:** None
- **Liquor Licenses/GNAs:** The Good Neighbor Agreement with Hawthorne Theater is almost done, hopefully to be presented to the board next month.
- **DEIA:** Heather stated that it is an ongoing journey.
- **Houselessness:** Additional hygiene kits were purchased through Amazon by Ann and delivered by Claire to Hygiene4All with the funds approved by the board last month. Claire added feminine hygiene products that she purchased with her own funds.

A discussion was held about using Amazon Smile and future RNA donations.

Meeting adjourned 8:45