

Agenda & Minutes for “Roland Park Beautification Committee”

Submitted by Louise Phipps Senft

Monday, March 23, 2009 at Louise Phipps Senft’s home, 102 Longwood Road, 7:30pm-9pm

In Attendance: Ann Lundy, Bebe Bass, Barry Goodinson, Louise Phipps Senft

Reports: from Fall and 2-23-09 mtg NEED A NOTE TAKER FOR FUTURE
Action items in red font.

Old Business & Updates:

New name: “Roland Park Beautification: Infrastructure, Gardens and Landscape Committee” [Big-L]

Website: Very effective and will continue to post our updates. ANY SUGGESTIONS?

Lecture Series, Flyers: Please take some and hand out re upcoming events: Lecture Series and April 4 Cold Spring Clean Up NEED SOMEONE WHO IS FLIER MASTER

Grant: Chris Belser and Louise Phipps Senft submitted a \$1000 grant proposal to Parks and People but we were rejected in favor of other neighborhoods more in need. OTHER IDEAS? *Louise to ask Chris to seek input on why we were turned down if for reasons other than that other communities were more in need.*

Bulbs for Islands and Median in front of Library/Eddies and Cold Spring/Roland Avenue: Enjoy! Goal: all 14 islands were planted by the stewards (Thanks Stewards!); the medians by some Big-L volunteers and their children (Thanks Chris Mac Sherry & children; Louise Phipps Senft & Children; Maidie Podles).

Sign: ““Roland Park Beautification: Landscapes, Infrastructure and Gardens” to be used for events, stored by Maidie Podles at her house, Call Maidie if need it

Neighbor to Neighbor Lighting Dispute: successfully mediated by RPCL

New Business/Ideas/Action:

Saturday April 4, 9am-12noon Jones Falls Watershed Cleanup Event: Phil Spevak asked us to participate. Tough day b/c RPBL opening day and beginning of baseball and lacrosse season, but we will figure it out! Area of Falls Road from Northern Parkway to Harvest. Need 4-10 volunteers. I surveyed and most trash appears to be nearest Northern Parkway. Need Coffee Donation and Donuts? VOLUNTEER TO GET COFFEE? DONUTS? VOLUNTEERS TO HELP PICK UP TRASH? *Louise will attend Jones*

Falls Watershed meeting March 31 for info and send out info on the website asking for Volunteers.

Curbs and Sidewalks: Some streets in RP will now get new curbing and sidewalks. Issue is trying to locate and talk to appropriate City supervisors as there are difference folks for e.g, curbs, sidewalks, intersections, streets, etc, AND each job we ask for or get some services on is separately bid out to a different subcontractor. Am trying to educate about our need for historically compatible materials such as darker grey/green concrete and not the garish yellow ADA accessible corner curbs that went in before we organized as a committee. This month, was successful, after a LOT of back and forth, for the new job on Elmwood Road from Longwood to Edgevale for darker concrete and exposed aggregate sidewalks. They were not particularly happy with a couple days of delay having to change the materials order. But such changes CAN be done with perseverance. NEED SOMEONE TO PETITION ELMWOOD RESIDENTS IF THEY WANT A NEW STREETPAVING AS WE HAVE SOME MOMENTUM . VOLUNTEER?

ANYONE KNOW WHOM WE CAN CONTACT IN PUBLIC WORKS TO BULID REGULAR RELATIONSHIP?

Louise to continue dialogue with city project by project until some relationship and cohesion formed.

Cold Spring Lane Merchants: Louise to talk with Eddie Dopkin and draft letter to see if any interest from merchants to form a coalition; set up meeting to explore potential community grant from Parks & People.

Water Tower Property: Idea to beautify it or draw attention to it as a minipark. Not sure of safety or status. Louise to find out who owns the property now. Idea: someone to contact Mark Foster at Second Chance to see if iron bench(es) can be donated for this space or other to improve use by residents. VOLUNTEER?

Path Clean-up: Idea to get stewards for each Path. Ann Lundy explained how it works with RPR&M; essentially RP has a contract for a twice a year pruning of the paths which is scheduled in June once the plants have finished their spring growth and in early Dec/early Jan for leaf clearance/debris removal after the leaves have fallen. Best for us to wait until later in summer for any organized activity to prune so we are not redundant. What we need however is other maintenance which our contract does not cover such as replacement of broken items and signs etc.

- Path Reconnaissance:** The following agreed to do some surveillance to let us know the general status of the paths by the next meeting. Barry Goodinson Plats 1, 5 city, 5 county; Bebe Bass Plat 3, [no paths plat 4]; Ilene Asner Plats 2, 6
- Path Stewards Recruitment** NEED VOLUNTEERS Julie Mainello and Chris MacSherry indicated interest in helping.
- Path Steward Duties:** We brainstormed a list of duties, including: TLC for the paths; encouraging others to use the paths and self-help re pruning or clearing; keep Big-L & R&M posted on what needs to be done on paths such

as fixing broken pavement and broken signs, organize other neighbors to help “adopt” a Path. NEED FLIER CREATED TO DISTRIBUTE AT UPCOMING MEETINGS/RP EVENTS. VOLUNTEER?

- ❑ **Overseer of Path Stewards** NEED VOLUNTEER
- ❑ **Begin a RP Community Chest of tools? Place for storage? Someone’s donated garage in a combination locked plastic chest?** Ann Lundy will inquire about a space for a shed.
- ❑ **Path Names:** We would like to find out the history of the names of the paths, e.g. “On the Gravelly Hill” was created for men taking the street car to and from work. VOLUNTEERS to research? Ilene Asner to spear head.
- ❑ **Path Signs:** Ann Lundy has had brass lettering for path signs for a couple years, unassembled, at her house; needs help with assemblage and waterproofing; R&M will install. NEED VOLUNTEERS TO ASSEMBLE SIGNS AND WATERPROOF THEM.
- ❑ **Path Reconnaissance Check List:** Date, Name of Steward, which path, if overgrown foliage, where, need of concrete repair, uneven pavement need of repair, any broken flag stone, debris in gutters, 10 ft right of way still passable, anything dangerous, anything of curiosity, any new plantings by juxtaposing neighbors that may encroach the paths, which addresses, condition of signs, other comments, digital pictures taken and sent to _____. NEED VOLUNTEER

Islands: Overseer of Island Stewards NEED VOLUNTEER CHAIRPERSON
Longwood Island: R&M had dead tree stump ground out, need to provide replacement of 2 dogwoods in lieu of evergreen bushes. Ann Lundy will follow through.

Spring Cleaning of Yards, Lanes, Housestuff: Tabled until we hear further from Dorothy Baker. Dorothy to report on how to get dumpsters in all the Plats for Spring Cleaning, Debris Pick up etc

Meet & Greet new neighbors/Welcome Packet NEED VOLUNTEER CHAIRPERSON TO COORDINATE OVERALL PROJECT

Content of Welcome Packet (one pagers for starters):

- **History of Paths & Islands Fact Sheet** Ann Lundy to create. OTHER VOLUNTEERS?
- **Fact Sheet of RP** Ilene Asner to create along the theme of *Did you Know How Neat Roland Park is?* OTHER VOLUNTEERS to contribute info/write?
- **List of Books/Articles written about RP or written by RP residents:**

Resources such as *The Picture Book of Roland Park*; *Crowning the Grovelly Hill*, Roberta Moudrey’s 1980’s thesis. Ilene Asner to create OTHER VOLUNTEERS to research

- **Fact Sheet of interesting RP residents past and present:** Bebe Bass to coordinate by starting with interview of Tony Pinto who

turned R&M around etc. OTHER VOLUNTEERS to contribute info/write?

- **Native v Invasive Species and Why Important to Plant Native:** Book: *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas Tallamy VOLUNTEER writer
- **Why covenants** Ann Lundy to create.
- **Why Fees and what they go towards** Ann Lundy to create

Other pieces of information to include?

Deliver with some cookies/cake? NEED VOLUNTEER BAKERS

How we will distribute and get names of new residents? RP admin asst; Ann Lundy to inquire

Deadline June 1 to have packet completed

Provide to all new neighbors within the last year

NEED A MEET & GREET NEW NEIGHBORS TEAM

Fees and Covenants: Post on website and include in billing statement to residents an info sheet on why paying the full rate of dues is so important. (We missed the most recent mailing but will find out dates of next and get in there) Ann Lundy to give us dates of mailings; Ann to provide content for why fees and covenants; Louise to create as flier

Public Works Relations Team We will create one; will need 1-2 to form a team with Louise. Ian McFarlane? Chris MacSherry? VOLUNTEER?

Spring Flower and Native Plant Sale & Swap: We will have a sale and swap on May 16 after the Cylburn sale and will partner with Cylburn to take any leftover plants; will need someone to spearhead and will need advanced planning. Will need some protocols on what plants are not acceptable or desirable; idea: kids with a lemonade stand at sale; will discuss next meeting; need a list of exotic vs native plants to help educate folks. List of master Gardeners by name and address who know RP. Ann Lundy to order 100 booklettes *Mistaken Identity* which are side by side comparisons of native vs invasive plants (50 cents each) to be available at Plant Sale and Swap. NEED VOLUNTEER CHAIRPERSON AND VOLUNTEERS We will not accept pacasandra, loriope, English ivy, bamboo; the Natives that attract birds and insects, e.g. foam flower, blueyed grass, ornamental grasses, woodland flax etc.

Upcoming Chili Cookoff for FireHouse: Louise to create and distribute flier of Speaker Series, Notice of Plant Sale and Swap and Path Cleanup

Medians: Best not to plant anything that has not yet died when the City comes to mow; also joggers object if plantings hinder their path

Path Walks: Ann Lundy will provide 2 this spring; and will contact Kathleen Trulove, and Jean Mellott to join her as separate guides since max per walk is about 15 people; We will have an "Olmsted Tour" Path Walk on May 17, Sunday, the day after the Plant Sale, meeting in front of the Library at 10am for a two hour path walk. Should we charge as a

Greenspace Fundraiser (\$10 person/\$25 family)? Do folks have to sign up day before or just show up? Needs further planning. Have folks sign up at May 13 Lecture.

Finding Grad Student to index 54 boxes of Roland Park archives at Cornell: Roberta Mouldry's thesis work on Roland Park has been long finished and her primary sources are at Cornell. We would like to find a graduate student or other professional researcher to archive them and we need to find out how we may have them, store them, steward them, etc. Needs further discussion. Louise will put on the web a notice for such a person once details known.

Creation of **Resource Bank of Tips and Tidbits** re gardening in RP (past articles in RPN written by Ann Lundy and Jean Mellott) Post on Beautification Big L Committee website page NEED A VOLUNTEER

RP Lecture Series for 2010: *We definitely want to have another series in 2010.* Possible speakers: Doug Tallamy from Univ of Delaware, author of *Bringing Nature Home*; the Chief of the Forestry Division for Baltimore City is very good too; someone who could speak about the magazine series Houses and Gardens in Roland Park (collection at the Pratt Library). Focus: Native Plants, The ecology of your back yard in Roland Park, Other ideas? To be discussed further.

STRUCTURE: **How often we meet and when?** *Meet monthly February-May; September-October*
Regular Fall & Spring Events? *Yes*
Summer? *Maybe if needed re paths or other*
Project format with reports? *Yes, Informal Fun!*
Communication: *via Beautification Distribution List, fliers, RP website, RPCL Plat Representatives*

Adjourned 9:30pm Thank you, Louise

Other Potential Projects:

- 1. Cold Spring Lane Beautification Group to work with Merchants, biggest obstacle to overcome will be ongoing maintenance of whatever is undertaken**
- 2. RP Pool graffiti removal; rat abatement; clean up area**
- 3. BCC Land/Committee of Experts, join or assist with ideas**
- 4. Draw attention to Trolley Stop on W. University Parkway with RP Lemonade Stands w kids sign up each Saturday of July; site of a cookie exchange at Christmas time; site for a kids art show in summer/spring**

5. Storm Drain Watchers

6. America the Beautiful Fund for free seeds for community veggie garden

7. Do we need a logo?

8. Community Garden

9. Art Contest

9. Photo Contest or Show in Library

8. Medians

9. I'll keep adding as we dream them up or others send in inquiries etc.