

Agenda & Minutes for “Roland Park Beautification Committee”

Submitted by Louise Phipps Senft

Tuesday, April 1, 2009 at Louise Phipps Senft’s home, 102 Longwood Road, 7:30pm-9pm

In Attendance: Vince Vizachero, Barry Goodinson, Louise Phipps Senft

Reports: since **March 23, 2009 mtg** NEED A NOTE TAKER FOR FUTURE
Action items in red font.

Old Business & Updates:

RP Lecture Series, Flyers: Please take some and hand out re upcoming events: First Lecture attended by about 30-35 folks. Good place to hand out fliers for Big L to educate re native plants, islands, path maps for greater use of paths, etc.
We would like to have this annually; to be further discussed at May meeting.

RP Lecture Series for 2010: Additional possible speakers: someone from the Casey Tree Foundation who inventories trees in DC would be interesting and maybe we can use their equipment (**Barry Goodinson to inquire**). Re Doug Tallamy from Univ of Delaware, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, **Vince Vizachero will inquire; Succession Planting/inventory speaker**; Mike McQuestion did such a marvelous job with this series this year. **Louise to inquire if Mike is interested in taking charge for contacting speakers and lining things up for next year.** 2-3 VOLUNTEERS? Sell the books and have the authors sign at the event.

Bulbs for Islands and Median in front of Library/Eddies and Cold Spring/Roland Avenue: Enjoy! Children who participated in median in front of Eddies and Island very proud when they saw the labors of their work—very nice. **We want to further discuss as we think having daffodils under the trees along Roland Avenue median in the mulched areas from Deepdene south to W. University would be a wonderful thing to do and would require a couple years or more to plant each plant; to be further discussed at May meeting.**

Saturday April 4, 9am-12noon Jones Falls Watershed Cleanup Event: Concerned about the date bc of many conflicts 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. Louise attended Jones Falls Watershed meeting March 31 for info and will have gloves, trash bags, waivers, table, safety vests for volunteers on Sat. **Anne Stuzin to ask Starbucks for coffee donation; Louise to pick up day of and be there with anyone who shows up.**

Curbs and Sidewalks: Latest RP street to get new curbs is Keswick from Wyndhurst to Oakdale. Darker concrete has been used. Also there are no garish yellow ADA ramps shields installed; instead they have used a red brick for historical areas which is the best we could do while still conforming. Still trying to get the overall plan the City has in store for RP AND also to find out from the Plat Reps which areas are in need of curb repair etc. to we can negotiate, project by project for more compatible materials so we continue to look like RP and not a new subdivision. 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 BUILD REGULAR RELATIONSHIP? **Louise to continue dialogue with city project by project until some relationship and cohesion formed.**

Water Tower Property: Baltimore City owns the property. NEED VOLUNTEER TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE POTENTIAL? of beautifying it or drawing attention to it for greater use.

Path Clean-up:

Path Reconnaissance: Email report from Kate Culotta (Path 1), Barry Goodinson Plats 1, 5 city, 5 county state they are in fairly good shape right now re growth, except are in need of repairs.

- Path Stewards Recruitment** Barry Goodinson to create flier for Lecture Series and the Plant Sale to recruit.
- Path Steward Duties:** To walk the paths, give us an update 4 seasons of the year. See prior month minutes. Barry Goodinson to create and have available for upcoming RP events, Lecture Series and the Plant Sale.
- Path Reconnaissance Check List:** We need a simple check list to be posted on the RP website and downloadable by the Stewards. See prior months minutes for details. Barry Goodinson to create.
- Path Signs:** Ann Lundy has had brass lettering for path signs for a couple years, unassembled, at her house. Barry Goodinson will work with Ann Lundy to have all new signs assembled, waterproofed and installed on the Paths before May 17 Path Walk.
- Path Beautifying.** We'd like to plant native plants in the 10 foot right of way, such as black eyed susans, and anything flowering left over from plant sale and swap. Do we need to seek permission? Ann?

Islands: Overseer of Island Stewards: Barry Goodinson will be the Island Overseer.

Meet & Greet new neighbors/Welcome Packet NEED VOLUNTEER CHAIRPERSON TO COORDINATE OVERALL PROJECT **Bebe Bass? And others** 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:** VOLUNTEERS to contribute info/write?
- **Native v Invasive Species and Why Important to Plant Native:** Book: *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas Tallamy ; idea to create a one page life cycle of the planting of a native plant, insects, birds, larger animals etc with important quality of life facts included: shade, cooler summer, lower electricity bills, less electricity used etc. Barry Goodinson to see if schematic already exists; Vince Vizachero to create
- **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. **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: Need update from Ann Lundy on mailing insert.

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 (8am-11am?) (after the Cylburn sale and will partner with Cylburn to take any leftover plants; Vince Vizachero will chair this effort. Goal is to educate RP residents on native plants. Vince to contact Maidie Podles for "Roland Park Beautification" sign; potential book signing by author; VOLUNTEER to head up lemonade stand for kids to run?; Vince to create "List of invasive plants to avoid and what to plant instead"; "List of invasive plants that are OK but others to consider instead" such as golden ragwort for loriope; flier for event, get tables etc. Vince to check out Library as location and seek permission from Library.

Path Walks: Ann Lundy to provide report at next meeting on May 17 and other date.

Finding Grad Student to index 54 boxes of Roland Park archives at Cornell: Needs further discussion. Louise will put on the web a notice for such a person once details known. Who knows the title of her thesis? Who owns the 54 boxes? Louise to ask Ann Lundy.

Creation of **Resource Bank of Tips and Tidbits** re gardening in RP (past articles in RPN) **Vince Vizachero to collect and organize** and we will post on Beautification Big L Committee website page

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

New Business/Ideas/Action:

Library Landscaping: I have received a few emails from concerned RP residents that the new landscaping of the library does not use Native Plants, is not in keeping with Olmsted guidelines and was not approved by the community. We would like to engage in conversation about replanting of Library Landscaping with Native Plants if not now at some time in the future. The committee wants to insure that we do not wish to be adversarial or to criticize as we move forward on this, but to create the necessary changes in the future if not now recognizing that many RP residents are unknowing about the importance of our history and future re native plants etc. **Louise will inquire with RPCL, RPF who can ask Susan Newhouse the Chairperson.**

Community Garden: **Vince Vizachero will inquire about the open lot property on the corner of Kenwood and Woodlawn as potential site. NEED VOLUNTEERS**

Website RP Beautification Wish List/Borrow List: NEED SOMEONE TO CREATE A SIMPLE TEMPLATE WE CAN POST ON WEBSITE AND HOPE IT IS FILLED

RP Spring Cocktail Party and Fundraiser: We have been asked if ANYONE TO VOLNTEER TO CONTACT SCHNEIDERS for A DONATION OF A WHEELBARROW AND A PLANTER?

Bricking in of Roland Avenue median south of intersection with Cold Spring Lane where panhandlers are as it is often a mudpit or a dust bowl. To be discussed next time.

Adjourned 9:00pm Thank you, Louise If anything interests you, please email. All are welcome!

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**
- 10. Photo Contest or Show in Library of each season in RP, or a theme each year, annually re beauty of RP**
- 11. Medians, how to beautify if at all re bulbs**
- 12. Bikepath extended on Falls Road**
- 13. Find researcher for Mike McQuestion info**
- 14. Have someone contact City to restencil the WATER DRAINS TO CHESAPEAKE on all storm drains**
- 15. I'll keep adding as we dream them up or others send in inquiries etc.**