

Roosevelt Sustainability Group (SRG)

Date/Time: March 16, 2010 7:30-9 pm

Location: Calvary Christian Assembly - 68th/Roosevelt

Introductions: Welcome new member Jay Lazerwitz, previously involved with Sustainable Ballard, and has been a member of Northwest Ecobuilding Guild.

Review of minutes and agenda additions

RNA Board or Land Use reports: Christopher went to Roosevelt High School site council meeting and suggests we e-mail Bees Bats Bugs flyers to them. The Mayor has initiative to develop policy around children, youth and families and the next RNA meeting will host a discussion. Paul suggests we think of list of things related to sustainability that would relate to children's development. Lorne mentions a book that indicates native ecosystems are supportive of kids. Christopher mentions maintenance of parks as supportive of children. Joan will bring "Be Out There" flyers to next RNA meeting.

Discussion Items

- **April RNA program "Bees, Bats & Bugs: Secrets for a Sustainable Garden"**

April announcement is in The Roosie as an insert. Holly has posted on website. We will have copies of announcement flyer at March meeting.

Posters/posted flyers: Ellen will send out final copy of flyer again. Christopher will send via e-mail to Roosevelt HS site council folks. Ellen will send to Sustainable NE Seattle and to Colleen for RR Ecovillage list. Ellen will donate plastic covers.

Honorarium: Board agreed that an honorarium for speakers was reasonable: \$50 paid to organizations.

AV setup for meeting: John is providing a projector. Two people bringing Macs and adaptors. Brad will help Ellen connect with Randy and John about AV stuff.

Program plan: Need to keep it to 20 minutes per person. Do brief intro of three experts, 12 minutes for talk, 5+ minutes for Q&A. Those who are contacting speakers should finalize arrangements with them by mid-month. Ask them how much time, in their experience, they usually have for questions. E-mail to all three speakers, tell them they'll be on the same panel, ask if they have any overlapping information. Paul points out that adults learn by asking questions. Marty is going last, she'll figure out what to leave out. Ellen/Joan/Holly working this.

- **Neighborhood Design Guidelines/DPD meeting happened!**

Paul, Bill and Ellen attended this public meeting. What feedback and input do we have for the City, prior to March 31 comment deadline? Lorne has sent personal thoughts about guidelines and questions about what bigger initiatives the City is interested in organizing that we as a neighborhood can volunteer for, such as thermal reservoirs, geothermal shared systems. Paul's impression is that the guidelines are still focused on individual projects but was pleased by the overall emphasis on sustainability. We are in a good potential position to get the message across

that we should be a laboratory for looking at bigger initiatives, projects. RNA should comment on this, even if very simply, that we hope we can evolve into a laboratory for neighborhood-wide interrelated sustainability projects. Lorne says get involved now. Jay suggests that SPU and DPD be more married on these issues (storm water, etc.). Lorne says DPD is beginning to look more broadly. We should try to reinforce them before we go to SPU. Paul: There's a chasm even within DPD between planning and design review. Paul spoke with Marshall Foster, Director of Design Review, and raised the idea of Roosevelt being a laboratory.

Action: While the idea of a task force to develop comments was supported, the time to comment is short. Thus, Paul will draft a letter that can be sent from RNA if approved. Jay and Lorne will look at proposed guidelines again and provide additional content. Will send to Board, Land Use, for request and review and try to get final draft by RNA meeting night.

How design review works: Ellen is not clear on how a design review board uses the city and neighborhood design guidelines document when looking at a project. Does the board have to decide which elements they are going to focus on? How do you use them? Ultimately the DG document is a tool of design review, but is also a citizen's tool and citizens can address certain issues in them. Then design review board has to pay attention to citizen comments. Jay says, is there a laundry list of things developers have to do, or do they have to pick a certain number of elements?

Paul suggests these questions segue into the next revision of the neighborhood guidelines. DPD will not help, does not have resources to help with neighborhood plan revisions. We can see this as rejection or as huge opportunity. If Roosevelt changes its guidelines to be in line with the City ones, it would be an advantage to us. Bill points out the RNA got good-sized grant to do the guidelines the first time (finished back in 2000 for the Urban Village).

Updating neighborhood design guidelines: In general we support a recommendation to the RNA board that it undertake an update of our neighborhood design guidelines. Christopher says we have to think about the process by which we make changes in current guidelines and get them approved. He suggests we find things in the City guidelines that jibe with the RNA guidelines. Conversation with Land Use Committee has begun. Jim O'H and Ellen had conversation with John Adams about it. They agree it is a big project to undertake, and all need to know more about what it will look like. Jim was positive about starting process and brought up the idea at Land Use meeting last night, asking if people were interested. There was positive discussion about sustainability and no objections to revising. Lorne says a revision will not only address sustainability concerns but also give opportunity for improved urban design guidelines.

Does the neighborhood know what it wants to be as an urban village? Bill says we have an opportunity to shape the opinions. What is Roosevelt as a PLACE? Need a visioning exercise.

Discussed proposal that Land Use/Transportation and Sustainability Committees each select a couple of people to form a joint task force to ask the question, should we or should we not revise the neighborhood guidelines . . . and if yes, then devise a plan for how to do that.

Action: Ellen will work on making a recommendation with Christopher's assistance.

We are interested in helping the Board and neighborhood be updated on sustainable neighborhood development possibilities. Cheryl Sizov was willing to come to meetings to talk about the guidelines. Lorne has a meeting with Brennan Staley coming up. He will find out what the "sustainable communities" staff are working on and put forward the idea for Brennan and even Marshall Foster to come to Roosevelt for a tour. We will likely propose that RSG and Land

Use Committee jointly invite Cheryl Sizov and Brennan Stanley for sustainable development tour of Roosevelt. The Board is trying to get the Mayor to come out also. Lorne will talk to us about it at the next meeting in April.

- **Our ‘overarching’ goals for a sustainable neighborhood**

Begin review of report of Environmental/Utilities Subgroup of NPPT at next meeting. Those who put it together will review/present for group. The report is on the Web site. Continue this vision or revise?

- **Sustainable NE Seattle may be having one day July 16 festival.**

Would we like to participate? Ellen is waiting to hear more from that group. We have a table, awning, etc., that we could use for this.

The project that Sustainable Works is doing east of 20th – energy retrofits – has closed. Ellen will find out more about how that is going.

- **Projects: Cowen Park** – Penny Eckert

Penny will be talking at April meeting about projects at the park. Wants to finish tile project in short term. Long-term is looking for graffiti cleanup, little jobs, because major work has already been done. Looking for somebody closer to the park to take the lead. We as a committee aren't ready to take this on, but are willing to help out. Paul suggests young families. Joan suggests High School kids could work on it.

Christopher suggests we consider things other than land use and development issues to draw more people in to the Committee. Ellen says that the members who come have an interest in the things we're doing. We keep putting the word out to invite more people in and to bring their interests.

Articles for *The Roosie* – April 2010; due March. 28; April meeting Sustainability insert
Ellen asking for input -- an article about sustainability for businesses, Puget Sound report, having Cyprus tree wood milled, building your own raised beds? Resource list has been discussed.

Future Meetings: 4/20; RNA meeting is April 27 at 7:30 pm at RHS; 5/18

RNA Online Social Networking: How to use these? And the Seattle PI neighborhood blog?

Follow our blog at: <http://www.rooseveltseattle.org/blog.aspx>

Find us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=178766520060>

Follow us on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/roosieseattle>

Holly Matter & Ellen Stoecker