

Minutes for RMIA Board Meeting, Monday, February 13, 2017

Attending: Athene Carras, Kathy Monk, Alan Mueller, Craig Pierson, Bette Rosenstein, Suzy Thomas, Scott Wheeler, Victoria Wiedel

Alderman Deb Mell, Matthew Eisenbart, Michael Leff

Not present: Rick Glick, Matt Lachey, Lorin Liberson, Jim Peters, Joe Valentin,

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

Treasurer's Report: Suzy is using Excel for reports. She reported Pat Casler is cleaning up membership info.

Suzy's neighbor Jake Swider (sp) is an auditor and will audit RMIA's books as per our by-laws.

There is \$600 additional to report for advertising & membership.

Earmarks: there was \$1,835 set aside 12 years ago for enhancements on the west side of Francisco. The Board voted to use that money for trees – 4 are needed on Francisco. Will need to find someone to water the trees. Bette thought that Christopher Narlock might be willing.

Budget: The RMIA has money from the Centennial and discussed using it to beautify LaPointe Park and other improvements for the neighborhood.

Treasurer's Report was approved.

Alderman Mell & Matthew Eisenbart: Discussed menu/ Infrastructure Improvements. They want to make process of distributing funds more transparent & engaging.

Streets & alleys cannot be resurfaced because of the work People's Gas is doing.

Mathew said there's \$1.32 million menu funds that can be used for art, signs, etc., but not salaries or support. An online submission form is available on Alderman Mell's website. The deadline is March 31st.

People's Gas project: Most work in the Manor will be done in 2017. Perhaps a representative from People's could come to the April 17th meeting.

The proposed mosaic on the Wilson Avenue Bridge will now be a mural. The city does not want anything permanent affixed to the bridge.

The new streetlights being installed will be LED's. The city is only replacing the lamp heads.

Deb will check on the Mozart house.

Communications: Victoria, Matt and Thomas Applegate are rebuilding the RMIA website. There have already been improvements.

Biweekly RMIA email newsletters have resumed.

Safety: Kathy attended the Beat 1713 and Suzy Beat 1724 CAPS meetings. Officers said they were reviewing CTA camera footage to find suspects involved in recent robberies. They encouraged neighbors to call 911 (rather than 311) if they were confused about which number to call and let the 911 operator decide whether complaint is appropriate. Because of the Department of Justice report, police officers cannot stop someone if they look suspicious. They need more than one citizen calling police to do so.

They take issue with 'keyboard cowboys' on social media and encourage neighbors to call 911 if there's a problem rather than only share on social media.:

Kathy will look into holding a neighborhood self-defense class at Horner Park.

Zoning: Will meet in late February or early March.

There have been no zoning variance requests. They will reach out to Summit's new owner.

Membership: Craig said they met and want to coordinate lists – mailing list & membership dues list. It is a work in progress.

Community Relations: Alan said the Farmer’s Market needs volunteers. The market will be longer this year – May through October.
North River Commission is meeting February 22 at 6:00 in Roosevelt High School.

Transportation: At the **January 26th** TAC meeting there was some objection to ‘bump-outs’ in front of the ballet school on Francisco. There was also discussion of the ‘safety islands’ on Montrose & Lawrence.

Social: Potential speakers for the **April 17th** Semiannual meeting were discussed. People’s Gas and CMAP were mentioned.
The RMIA will do advertising only to promote the Garage Sale on **May 21st**. Need someone to oversee the sale.

Parks: Lorin and volunteers distributed door-hangers to designated homes for Openlands tree planting.

New Business: Ethics policy will be developed in response to someone writing to the RMIA about Athene’s husband working for the North River Commission.

January meeting minutes were corrected & approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.

The next Board meeting will be at Horner Park Field House, 2nd floor on Monday, **March 13th** at 7:00.

Submitted by Kathy Monk