

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

Attending: Athene Carras, Brinda Gupta, Matt Lachey, Lorin Liberson, Mina Marien, Kathy Monk, Alan Mueller, Jim Peters, Craig Pierson, Suzy Thomas, Lisa Washburn, Scott Wheeler,

Not present: Bette Rosenstein, Joe Valentin, Victoria Wiedel

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm

Introductions

Treasurer's Report: Proposed budget – Athene wants to spend some of the surplus. (LaPointe Park, Landmark District designation report, History Station). Pat Casler is stepping down as bookkeeper. Recommendations for a replacement are requested.

Athene proposed applying for non-profit status (\$40 per year) which includes online version of Quickbooks, so there is standardization of the finances.

Board voted unanimously to accept proposal.

Parks: Lorin wants to meet with the committee after Thanksgiving. She will recruit additional interested people via a newsletter article. Suggested having a neighborhood tree planting every other year.

There are two landscape architects who she will approach with a proposed budget (\$7,500 for now) and get their ideas for LaPointe Park. Craig mentioned the landscaping can be done in phases over years.

Lorin will request a map of the park from the Water Reclamation District to inform the landscape design.

Zoning: Due to recent teardowns and major home alterations (4400 block of Mozart) the committee will be pursuing a Local Landmark District designation for Ravenswood Manor in earnest. Exterior changes to homes would then need to be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Division of the Commission on Chicago Landmarks. We would use the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association as a guideline for additions and renovations.

In 2009 97% of buildings in the Manor fit into the character of the neighborhood. Today it's more like 82%. Jim will write an article for the newsletter that will go out in January. Terry Tatum, a historic preservation consultant, has been approached to prepare a designation report and attend necessary meetings. Since much work and research was already done for the Ravenswood Manor Chicago Landmark district designation, the fee would be \$5,000 rather than the usual \$15,000. Athene has entered this into the budget under Landmarks Designation.

The Board unanimously voted to approve pursuing the Local Landmark District designation. The report will take 3-4 months to produce.

Jim will send a calendar of steps in the process (report, commission review, preliminary determination, community comments and public meetings, etc.). The alderman has already urged the RMIA to take this step.

Communications:

Jim talked about the stories that will be in the winter newsletter, including Year in Review.

The RMIA website redesign is still underway. It has been much improved. Snippets of Story Corps interviews are now on the website.

Safety: CAPS meetings now begin at 6:15. (Beat 1724 on November 15th and Beat 1713 on November 22nd) Jim will put the CAPS email address in the newsletter:

CAPS.017District@chicagopolice.org

Special Events: Brinda is the new committee chair. Athene will meet with her to get her up to speed and brainstorm with her.

Snowflakes go up Monday, 11-20-17. The Bureau of Electricity won't install new plugs for additional snowflakes, so there will be 8 with 2 spares. The reason could be because new light poles will eventually be installed.

Transportation:

The public art person from CTA has been contacted regarding Ellen Harvey's deteriorating mosaic at the Francisco L stop. The mosaic was installed in 2007. The person from CTA is working with the artist and said they will have a solution to the problem next year. Bette is working on this.

Community Relations: Turkey Trot and park clean up are Saturday, November 18th in Horner Park.

Richard's Auto Body hearings have ended. Alan said he is not sure what the city will do as follow up. Mina said Richard's is still parking cars in the alley, blocking neighbors' garages.

Membership: Athene will provide Craig with a revised mailing list. She is looking for other recommendations for organizations that do mass mailings. Lorin confirmed they can be expensive.

177 Manor households are RMIA members. There are 714 individual addresses in the neighborhood.

Old Business:

History Station will begin by posting literature on the back of the HPAC board in Manor Park for one year. The preliminary budget for this is \$750.

New Business:

Athene will send budget revisions.

New Board members should email Athene which committee they would like to work on.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

The next Board meeting will be Monday, **December 11th** at 7:00 (could be a festive meeting!)

Submitted by Kathy Monk