

Minutes for RMIA Board Meeting, Monday, February 12, 2018

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

Not present: Matt Lachey, Joe Valentin, Victoria Wiedel

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm

Minutes: Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Volunteer who was going to be bookkeeper can't do it. Scott, Suzy, and Athene got together to start QuickBooks.

Suzy moved \$5,000 from PayPal to Chase – she will leave a minimal amount in PayPal – perhaps \$1,000. PayPal paid for Sound Cloud.

Thomas Applegate is looking into using MailChimp instead of Constant Contact.

Some newsletter ads weren't paid for, so Thomas will send bills using QuickBooks. Payments can be tracked.

There was \$27,686.75 at the end of January. There was a total of \$6,105 for membership with 144 RMIA members.

Parks: Lorin said Deb Robinett brought feedback to their meeting. Some of the feedback was to keep LaPointe Park the way it is, just fix the drainage.

The wish-list includes an anchor corner by the alley as a welcome to the neighborhood, remove the raised beds (perhaps these people could go to Peterson Garden), and improve the front beds. At least 1 crabapple tree needs to be removed.

Lorin will reach out to NeighborSpace – according to Jim, they pay the insurance for the park. Lorin is looking for a LaPointe family contact.

Two people in Ravenswood Manor are interested in submitting a proposal. It was suggested that two more proposals from outside the neighborhood should be solicited. The committee will review what they can do for a \$7,500 budget and neighbors could help with some manual labor. The park improvements will need to be sustainable.

Zoning: The Local Landmark District report will be delivered to the Board in March. The report will be presented to the neighborhood at the April semiannual meeting. The consultant will be at this meeting to answer neighbor's questions. There will be another article in the spring newsletter in advance of the meeting. If the City approves the landmark district, there is a very specific process of meetings, notifications of neighbors by mail, and numerous opportunities for the neighborhood to weigh in.

Bette thinks there should be specifics about what will be discussed at the meeting. Jim will provide Thomas with content to include in email blasts.

Communications: Have Matt & Victoria update email list and cross-reference it with the membership list. Also have them post board meeting dates and times on the RMIA Facebook page.

Mina wondered if she could opt out of the physical newsletter, but that might be too difficult for delivery.

Steve Shanabruch is moving, but will continue to do the layout for the newsletter.

Newsletter stories are due at the end of February with the newsletter going out mid-March in advance of the semiannual meeting.

Safety: No report

Special Events: Talk of inviting new 17th District commander to the Annual Meeting in October.

June 30th is the 4th of July Parade with paletas, fire truck, and flags

July TBD is the Garden Walk

May 20th is the Garage Sale

October 15th is the Annual Meeting

Possible adult event at Angelo's – a winetasting

When Twisted Hippo opens, we could approach them about doing an event there

Transportation: Bette said the tile mosaic 'carpet' at the Francisco stop has been repaired - filled in with mortar - but, there has since been more deterioration. CTA did the repairs without telling Bette.

Bette reached out to the alderman's office to see when utility work was going to be done under the L tracks. This was supposed to take place at the end of January. The duration of that phase of the utility work is also unknown. Bette will continue to reach out to the alderman's office.

Community Relations: No report.

Membership: There will be a blurb in the spring newsletter about paying membership dues. (See Treasurer's Report for rest of Membership information)

New Business: Athene received an email about snow on the bridges and whether the RMIA had ever solicited bids for snow removal. Alan confirmed that when the Montrose Bridge was closed for repairs, the RMIA had looked into it due to the increased traffic on Wilson Ave. Lorin asked why the RMIA doesn't plow the sidewalks.

Per the ordinance, who is responsible for clearing bridge sidewalks? If the RMIA contracts to clear snow, then they accept the liability if someone is injured as a result. This might become an undue burden on the RMIA. Bette will investigate whose responsibility it is to remove snow from the bridges.

The sidewalks at Buffalo Park are not plowed. Is this the responsibility of the Chicago Park District?

There is a downed light pole at California and Montrose. One of the snowflakes is on this pole. The Alderman was informed.

Bette also asked when the snowflakes will be removed. WGN Banners has been notified to come out during a break in the weather. It is customary for the snowflakes to come down prior to President's Day, but this may not be possible given the snow banks that might prohibit the cherry picker from accessing the poles safely.

Ruth Robbins moved to the neighborhood in 1924 – she turns 100 on March 22. There was a certificate created using the Centennial Homes plaque design that says "Centennial Resident". There will be a calendar of the 100 days of Ruth.

If anyone knows any other neighbors that are near 100, let Jim know.

Research Committee: The next round of interviews has gone up on the website and the theme is 'play'.

Jim presented the mock-up for the History Station panels – eventually a permanent installation in Manor Park.

It was proposed to use funds for the planting and maintenance of all of the street corner plots in the Manor. Bette volunteered to solicit proposals to do something similar to what GRO does in Rockwell Gardens.

Lorin said that the designers who give proposals for LaPointe Park might have suggestions. Jim will give Bette the contact person at GRO to find out how they maintain corners in the Gardens.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm.

The next Board meeting will be Monday, **March 12th** at 7:00

Submitted by Kathy Monk