

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

Board Members Attending: Tony Armour, Athene Carras, Tom Eul, Brinda Gupta, Patrick Johnson, Michael Leff, Mina Marien, Kathy Monk, Alan Mueller, Craig Pierson, Deb Robinett, Bette Rosenstein, Gary Smith , Suzy Thomas, Matt VanderZee, Lisa Washburn, Victoria Wiedel

Not present: Beth Lynch, Jim Peters, Joe Valentin

Visitors: Nick D'Alessio, Mathew McClintock, Cynthia Mueller
Congressman Mike Quigley & Mary Ann from Quigley's office

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Congressman Quigley gave a legislative update and answered a few questions.

Board introductions and committee responsibilities.

Minutes: The October minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Craig has taken over as Treasurer. Suzy will help with the transition.
An accountant is needed to set up QuickBooks for a nonprofit. Once set up, it will be easier to generate reports.

Committee Reports:

Parks: Deb Robinett is Chair of the committee. Members are Patrick Johnson, Beth Lynch, Mina Marien, Alan Mueller, and Lisa Washburn

- There is a new diagram from Wolff Landscape Architecture that includes grading and which trees are coming down. Trees on the parkway will remain.
- NeighborSpace and Bartlett Tree Experts came to review pruning and tree removal. Since they are working with the MRWD, this work needs to be completed before January 1st. This work is being done at a ~75% discounted cost.
- There will be a meeting scheduled for January to discuss fundraising for benches and other items that are not covered, i.e. anchor plantings and watering for, at least, the first month. Online crowd funding is being considered.
- The project is receiving \$500 and volunteers from NeighborSpace.

Safety: Members are Kathy Monk, Suzy Thomas, and Joe Valentin. Tony Armour said he would try to attend CAPS meetings.

- Suzy mentioned [Smart 911](#) – an app for smart phones. Residents can create a family safety profile for 911 and first responders to use in case of an emergency.
- The 17th district has a new commander - Ronald A. Pontecore Jr. Athene mentioned it might be good to invite him to the semiannual meeting in April.
- The next **Beat 1724 CAPS meeting is Tuesday, November 20th at 7:00 at Horner Park.**
- The next **Beat 1713 CAPS meeting is Tuesday, November 27th at 7:00 at the Magnussen Center of North Park University.** We need neighbors to attend both meetings!

Zoning: Chair is Jim Peters, members are Tony Armour, Beth Lynch, Mina Marien, Gary Smith, Suzy Thomas, Matt VanderZee

- Design Guidelines Subcommittee (15 members, including five RMIA Board Members: Beth Lynch, Mina Marien, Jim Peters, Craig Pierson, Suzy Thomas) had its second meeting in early October. Committee reviewed existing building addition projects and identified additional issues for discussion. Next meeting will be held either after Thanksgiving—or after the New Year.
- Current Projects Subcommittee. Because of the design guidelines effort, four Committee members volunteered for a subcommittee to focus on projects where the alderman's office has requested assistance due to zoning variances. Those volunteers are: Martin Baumgaertner, Cynthia Mueller, Jim Peters, and Lori Weber. Projects reviewed since the last Board meeting are:
- 2805 Eastwood – proposal to construct a new residence on vacant lot on south side of street, between alley and river. With assistance of Zoning Committee member (and Eastwood resident Jeff Sell), a meeting was held in mid-October with nearby neighbors, the developer, and architect. Several zoning variances are being requested to the required front, rear, and side yard setbacks. Following input from neighbors (including adjacent neighbor who has review rights), developer agreed to revise and bring back at a subsequent meeting.
- 2712 Montrose – proposal to replace existing two story commercial building with a three-story, six-unit condo building. Zoning subcommittee helped organize September meeting with adjacent neighbors, developer, architect, and attorney. Board Member Athene Carras, who was in attendance, can summarize. The building is already down.
- 2854 W. Giddings – proposal to replace existing one-story residence with new two-story residence. Board Member Michael Leff can summarize, since he helped organize neighbor meetings with architect.
- 4530 N. Richmond – Zoning Committee has not reviewed since project is not seeking any zoning variances.

Transportation: Chair is Bette Rosenstein, members are Tony Armour, Michael Leff, Gary Smith, Victoria Wiedel.

- A concrete island is being built on Lawrence and should take 3 days to complete. There has been poor communication regarding construction of the Greenway. There have been complaints about the island on Montrose and about cars turning.
- L stop mosaic – Bette said Erica from Congressman Quigley's office said she would help, but Bette has not heard back from her.
- Gary wants the RMIA to take on maintenance and repair of the mosaic (the RMIA did this previously). Gary and Bette will work on getting a dollar amount to see how much annual costs would be.

Communications: Victoria Wiedel is chair, members are Brinda Gupta, Kathy Monk, Michael Leff, Lisa Washburn, Jim Peters

- **November 19th** is the deadline for new articles.
- The winter newsletter will go to designer right after Thanksgiving, with a publication goal of mid-December. Distribution will be over the holidays—or shortly thereafter.
- Tony requested that a draft of the newsletter be sent to the communications committee for review before it is printed and distributed.
- Thomas Applegate & Victoria are administrators of the RMIA Facebook page. They are looking for a hashtag to use for Ravenswood Manor.

Membership: Craig Pierson is chair and Gary Smith is committee member.

- There have been 4 or 5 new memberships.
- Membership letter is going out soon. Gary will get confirmation since it's his contact that mails the letters.

Community Relations: Alan Mueller is chair, members are Patrick Johnson, Matt VanderZee.

- Alan is liaison with HPAC, Patrick with NRC, and Matt was asked to communicate with businesses in Ravenswood Manor.
- Alan said the 33rd Ward Aldermanic Forum will take place **January 30th**.

Social: Brinda Gupta is chair, members are Suzy Thomas (we need more members on this committee!)

- The snowflakes are going up the week of Thanksgiving.
- There will be an adult-friendly event at Angelo's Wine Bar.
- Talked about fundraiser for LaPointe Park.
- Matt mentioned taking safety precautions on Halloween. Could have volunteers to help at street intersections. Perhaps Safety Committee could contact the alderman's office next year.

Nominating: Members are Mina Marien & Bette Rosenstein

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

The next meeting will be on **Monday, December 10th**, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Horner Park Field House on the 2nd floor.

Submitted by Kathy Monk