

Minutes for RMIA Board Meeting, Monday, December 10, 2018

Board Members Attending: Tony Armour, Athene Carras, Tom Eul, Brinda Gupta, Patrick Johnson, Mina Marien, Alan Mueller, Jim Peters, Craig Pierson, Suzy Thomas, Joe Valentin, Matt VanderZee, Lisa Washburn, Victoria Wiedel

Not present: Michael Leff, Beth Lynch, Kathy Monk, Deb Robinett, Bette Rosenstein, Gary Smith

Call to Order: 7:02 p.m.

Minutes: The November minutes were approved with two corrections.

Treasurer's Report (Craig): The focus now is on the 2019 budget. Craig presented estimated expenses and revenues for 2019 in a handout with line items for park maintenance, communications, beautification, and social events. The budget projections included \$15,201 for costs and \$10,700 for revenues.

Budget Discussion:

- Athene indicated the projected expense for LaPointe Park redesign (\$7,500) can be augmented or reduced in 2019 depending on how fund raising efforts turn out and if any additional costs are identified. Mina indicated the Parks Committee will discuss this line item further.
- The current state of Snowflake decorations came up (i.e., missing brackets, not the right type of outlet on newer street light poles). Athene and Jim suggested further discussion about replacing these decorations or exploring other options for the 2019/2020 winter season.
- Offsetting advertising revenue could increase over the year, depending on how many newsletter ads are sold. Garage sale donations might also be higher than what was estimated (\$1,000).
- Suzy made a motion to approve the submitted budget (and Victoria seconded) with the understanding that budget updates and discussions will take place throughout the next year.

Committee Reports:

Parks (Mina):

- NeighborSpace and Bartlett Tree Experts completed pruning and tree removal in LaPointe Park. The work was done at a ~75% discount so the cost to RMIA will be approximately \$400. The committee will recruit volunteers in spring when work begins in the park.
- The next RMAI newsletter includes more information, including details about a GoFundMe fundraising opportunity.
- Athene asked the committee to think about whether or not RMIA should promote Open Lands tree planting in the fall. Recently, the response from residents has been low.

Safety (Joe and Suzy for Kathy in absentia):

- At the Beat 1713 CAPS meeting on November 27 there was only one attendee (Kathy) and there was a presentation about the updated 311 system. The new website will eventually be www.chi311.org. More information can be found here: <https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/sites/311ProjectInformation/home/community.html>.
- The 17th district has a new commander, Ronald A. Pontecore Jr., who indicated he will communicate via Twitter.
- No one was able to attend the Beat 1724 CAPS meeting on November 20.
- The CAPS beats for our area (1713 and 1724) might be combined for future meetings.

Transportation: No report but the board continues to hope for better communications/notifications about work scheduled for the neighborhood.

Communications (Victoria and Jim):

- The winter newsletter has gone to the designer with a publication goal of late December and distribution to take place after the holidays. Committee members reviewed the drafted content before it was sent to the designer. Fees for 2019 newsletter costs were included in the budget.
- The committee will meet in-person quarterly in 2019.
- Mina requested that an official hashtag be created for social media posts (e.g., Instagram). Further research is needed to see what is already in use.

Membership (Craig):

- The mailing for annual membership went out and approximately 120 households have responded so far.
- A membership card needs to be created and sent to members (as specified in the RMIA Bylaws). Victoria and Jim volunteered to come up with a design, and Mina offered to help Craig with distribution options.

Community Relations: (Alan Mueller, Patrick Johnson, Matt VanderZee):

- Alan: HPAC is sponsoring an Alderman candidates' forum on Jan. 30. Alan will find out from HPAC what types of support are needed for the event.
- Patrick: NRC is looking for community groups to help sponsor a mayoral candidates' forum on Feb. 5. The board agreed to helping at the "community partner" level to help promote the event. Also, NRC recently published a Community Plan document.
- Matt: Twisted Hippo has indicated it will open in early January.

Social (Brinda Gupta):

- Next event in the works is a wine tasting at Angelo's (February date is TBD).
- The dates for the Summer Bash have been set: June 21 & 22.

Zoning (Jim Peters): Design Guidelines Subcommittee: no report. Planning to meet in mid-January.

Projects with updates are:

- 2805 Eastwood – proposal to construct a new residence on vacant lot on south side of street near river. Neighbors did not agree with zoning variances requested by developer. The alderman received feedback and does not support the proposal. The Zoning Board of Appeals did not review the plan. Neighbors are waiting for the next update.
- 2854 W. Giddings – proposal to replace existing one-story residence with new two-story residence. Neighbors have agreed to requested variances.

New Business: None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

The next meeting will be on **Monday, January 14, 2018** at 7:00 p.m. at Horner Park Field House on the 2nd floor.

Submitted by Victoria Wiedel