

Minutes from RNA Meeting on April 10, 2019

Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building

Room 159 (EOC) at 5:30 PM

Committee Members in Attendance

Kate Lewis, Chair

Charles E. Wilson, Vice-Chair

Ellie Rigby, Secretary

Bill Houck, Jr.

Jamaal L. Jackson

Jackie Moon

Cindy Pasternak

Sunni Purviance

Committee Members Absent

Guests

Joe Cobb – Vice Mayor

Wayne Leftwich – City Planner

Welcome to Members and Guests

Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 5:38 and welcomed all members and guests.

Reading and Approval of Minutes

Mr. Jackson moved to adopt the Agenda. Ms. Purviance seconded. Passed unanimously. The minutes needed to be amended to change the date at the top. Ms. Rigby made a motion to accept minutes as amended. Mr. Jackson seconded. Passed unanimously.

Guest Presentations

• Vice Mayor Cobb

Mayor Lea and Vice Mayor Cobb are working together to get a Task Force and a Remembrance Event together regarding Gun Violence. The Task Force will be 12-15 people of varying perspectives, areas, expertise, etc. The Task Force will be focused on Strategic Initiatives to Reduce Gun Violence in the City. They anticipate starting in late Spring/Early Summer. They would like the bulk of the work to take place over the next six months. They want to take into account any budgetary implications, implications for the Comprehensive Plan, Implications for Neighborhood Plans, local policies, and statewide policies. Mr. Cobb needs to know who will participate as soon as possible (by the end of this week).

Mr. Cobb also wanted to let RNA know that no more than 2 council members can be leading a meeting at a time unless it's an officially called meeting.

Reports of Special Interest

• City Plan 2040 – Wayne Leftwich, Roanoke City Sr. Planner

Just finished six open house meetings. Had roughly 120 people. You can still participate and comment on the draft policies on the website planroanoke.org. They are planning on having more discussions on equity. One is planned in Southeast for after their May meeting. They will do one in Northwest on May 23rd – they are working on a location. They are looking to host it in a church or more neutral location. They just announced a “Gateways for Growth” grant – it is a technical assistance grant. They are doing a data report on Roanoke focused on the immigrant and refugee population – demographics and economic impact study of Roanoke City, Roanoke County, and Salem. They will be at the Local Colors festival in May and it will officially kick off on May 21st. It will also work on establishing whether

the immigrants feel welcome. They will draft an Immigrant Integration Plan to be presented in September. They are hoping to have it coincide with the comprehensive plan. The City has also been working with Roanoke County on the Oak Grove Area (one side is City, one side is County). They are doing a reveal on May 2nd from 4-7 at Oak Grove Elementary and Saturday, May 4th from 9-noon. There is a National Organization that puts together a “Janes Walk” based on a famous planner named Jane. They schedule walks around her birthday the first weekend in May. They are going to have a couple of walks – May 5th for sure with Jordan Bell of the Historic Gainsboro Area. They hope to have one downtown and also one in Old Southwest. The walks will be accessible.

- **City Updates – Tonya Pickett, Neighborhood Services**

She is sending weekly updates with neighborhood events. We can sign up to do a 15 minute briefing before council and also mention the resolution. Once that’s introduced, they can schedule a resolution to be discussed and passed at a later time. That saves RNA from needing a council sponsor. This can happen the first meeting of the month. Katelynn will let Tonya know if she will do it in May or June.

- **Neighborhood Reports - All**

Ms. Moon

Airlee Court

They are wondering what is going on with Happys.

Mr. Jackson

No reports.

Mr. Jackson did ask about playgrounds for disabled children. Lakewood, Countryside, Smith Park, and the new playground in Melrose are accessible.

Mr. Houck

Old Southwest

He sat down with Frances McNulty and Tim Taylor. The neighborhood does a good job sending out a newsletter. They had never done an annual report and Frances saw it as an opportunity to review what has happened over the past six months.

Norwich

It seems to be a one person group. There are concerns with concrete that was potentially dumped in Norwich in the Harris Hardwood property from the Franklin Road bridge project.

Greater Deyerle

No report.

Ms. Rigby

MOTA

There is concern about the perceived gap in priorities between the neighborhood and the work that has been done in the neighborhood.

Wasena

Trying to get more people involved in the area across from Towers.

Ms. Lewis

Raleigh Court

Trying to do a block party.

South Roanoke Neighbors

There is no movement on the library and it won't be discussed at the next meeting as no library representatives are available.

Grandin Village Business Association

There is an issue with a pan handler that is in the middle of the road flagging people down. The resource officer reminded the neighborhood that they need to call the police with each siting.

Mr. Wilson

Melrose-Rugby

There is frustration with the implementation of the Target Area. Mr. Wilson is looking at MOTA and not seeing a good strategic plan for the area that has been followed through with.

Ms. Pasternak

No report

Ms. Purviance

Starview Heights

Problems with excessive yard sales, code enforcement issues, and a shooting. They are asking about the same properties over and over. The neighborhood is frustrated that nothing seems to be done.

Riverland/Walnut

Low attendance and a discussion with code enforcement.

Southeast Action Forum

Great turn out. A lot of positive fellowship between neighbors and. I Love Southeast Fest in July. Ms. Purviance is interested in a gateway to Southeast in the woods next to the Citgo. It has been in the neighborhood plans and it is time to implement them. Mr. Leftwich indicated that the Rescue Mission is interested in being involved with the neighborhood plan.

Reports of Officers – Standing Committees

- **Neighborhood Month – Presidents Council Meeting - Houck**

The meeting will be at the Gish House in Old Southwest. The meeting will be on May 31st at 6:30.

Unfinished Business

- **State of the Neighborhoods Report - Lewis**

Ms. Lewis really needs the neighborhood reports. Ms. Rigby and Mr. Houck will be helping to edit the report.

New Business

- **RNA Shirts**

Tabled until the next meeting.

Open Forum/Announcements

- **Trees Roanoke 2019 Arbor Day Celebration, April 20th, Mountain View Rec Center**
- **Earth Day – Grandin Village Business Association, April 20th**
- **Old Southwest, Inc. 2nd Paw Patch, Wednesday April 24th, 5:30 – 8:00**
- **Melrose-Rugby Famous Fish Fry, Friday April 26th, 11am – 3pm, M-R Neighborhood Center**

- **Grandin Chillage, April 26th, Grandin Village**
- **Greater Grandview Neighborhood,**
- **Hustle for the Homeless, Least of these Ministries, 5k, Saturday May 18th**
- **Roanoke Regional Housing Network Affordable Housing conference, May 2nd, Holiday Inn Tanglewood**

Closed Session called at 6:58

Adjourn

Ajourned at 7:17pm.