

# Minutes from RNA Meeting on July 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 (arrived at 5:46)  
Ellie Rigby, Secretary  
Bill Houck, Jr.  
Jamaal L. Jackson  
Cindy Pasternak  
Sunni Purviance

## Committee Members Absent

Jackie Moon

## Guests

Wayne Leftwich – City Planner  
Daryn Warner – Census  
Mark Hofstetter – Old Southwest

## Welcome to Members and Guests

Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 5:30 and welcomed all members and guests.

## Reading and Approval of Minutes

Mr. Houck moved to adopt the Agenda. Mr. Jackson seconded. Passed unanimously. Mr. Houck made a motion to accept minutes. Mr. Jackson seconded. Passed unanimously.

## Guest Presentation

### • Daryn J. Warner; Partnership Specialist, US Census

Here to stress how important the Census is to Roanoke and every locality in the valley. They are looking for opportunities to make it important to Roanoke by showing the Federal dollars that come to Roanoke. There will be some outreach leading up to the Census in March of 2020. There will be an invitation for online or by phone. If there is no submission by April, then the Census will send a paper copy. If there is still no response, then there will be people knocking on doors – RNA can help neighborhoods know when this might happen. And RNA should help neighborhoods to push for citizens to go online or on phone to answer the Census questionnaire. Based on the 2010 Census, they anticipate that 20-30% of people in Roanoke will not respond to the census in certain neighborhoods. The originating Census data cannot be accessed by any other organization other than the Census bureau – this has even been upheld by the courts. The data cannot even be used by law enforcement – not even for people having too many people in a house, etc. Stressing the ease of going online. We do not want to be at risk of people being under counted. Children under 5 are often undercounted (5%) as are lower and higher incomes and some minority communities. As of right now, the Census printing has begun and the Citizen question is not on it and that decision is under review in the lower courts. They will have a specific team to count the homeless population. They are counted as part of the city, not of a residence, unless they are in a shelter. Three asks:

1. Help make the Census important to the community – there is greater opportunity for Federal Grant dollars
2. Access can be an issue, so they are looking for organizations that can make internet access available.
3. Help keep the Census safe – stress the confidentiality

## Reports of Special Interest

- **City Plan 2040 – Wayne Leftwich, Roanoke City Sr. Planner**

Continuing to meet with Stakeholder Groups. Recently met with the LOA and have an upcoming group with various members of the LGBTQ+ Community. They hope to have focus groups in August for Welcoming Roanoke Initiative to get a plan and draft together for Welcoming Week the week of September 13<sup>th</sup>.

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

The Citizen Engagement position is in the interview phase. They had ~70 applicants and they had the zoom interviews and have narrowed the field to 6 people. The position is to be filled by September. There is a new Peters Creek group. They will have their second meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup>. There is a Pawpalooza Event in Old Southwest. Registration is required – all money raised goes to Angels of Assisi. She also included the Citizen of the Year form. The Parks and Recreation Master plan is being presented on Monday for a public hearing for comments. She has provided some sample Strategic Planning Documents that she has been sharing with neighborhood groups that the RNA might want to use as well. She has taken the RNA Strategic Plan and put it into a planning document to help consider goals and action items. She will send out the information regarding the change to the by-laws via email. She also updated the neighborhood assignments. Ms. Pickett indicated that resource officer reporting is a problem across the board and they are setting up a meeting with Captain Hartman and Neighborhood Services and the RNA to figure out what the Community Resource officers can do better.

- **Neighborhood Reports - All**

**Ms. Lewis**

*No reports.*

**Mr. Wilson**

*Melrose-Rugby*

There is a block party coming up. They are having a special session on July 16<sup>th</sup> from 12-2:00 regarding Apple Ridge Farm's proposal to use Kennedy Park. That will be at the Melrose-Rugby house. There are questions about the exact location of the project that ARF is clearing up.

*Loudon-Melrose*

No meeting, but Mr. Wilson will be following up with Loudon-Melrose about the problems with crime in the community.

*No Other Reports*

**Ms. Pasternak**

*Riverdale Farm*

There is a meeting tomorrow night about bullying and preventing sexual abuse in children.

Southeast at large is still planning on doing National Night out with the County at Explore Park. There is a lady interested in promoting Southeast – there are segments promoting it online.

There is also a potential new group off Yellow Mountain Road in the Wellington community – high end homes and they have had some problems with theft. They are wanting to start a neighborhood watch in conjunction with an HOA.

**Ms. Purviance**

*Starview Heights*

They have a concern about lack of police presence at the meeting, but they do recognize that the officer is pulled many different directions.

*Belmont*

Keith Holland and Katherine Gray presented about Belmont-Fallon being in the running to be the next Target Area.

*Southeast Action Forum*

Morningside is in the running for Target Area as well, yet they might be unofficially in favor of Belmont-Fallon being first.

The gateways to Southeast have had problems (Tazewell Bridge) and the woods by the Citgo and they are seeking suggestions and support for help in cleaning these areas up.

**Mr. Jackson**

*Greater Grandview*

No report.

*NNEO*

No report.

*Gainsboro Southwest*

No report.

*Youth Services Citizens Board*

There were suggestions made for the Youth Summit to be at William Fleming High School at 10:00am on September 21st. They are looking at topics for that summit. They are wanting a title other than "Building Resiliency" that will better attract Youth. Their next meeting is July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

*Gun Violence Task Force*

There was a meeting last week and they are breaking into subcommittees. They are looking at immediate and long term issues to address. There is the service of Remembrance on July 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm at William Fleming High School for any victims of gun violence and their families and communities. They have a chairperson – Shakira Williams, Courtney Penn from Roanoke College, Tasha Steele from Roanoke City Public Schools. They are meeting the first Monday of every month.

**Mr. Houck**

*Norwich Neighborhood Alliance*

There were 7-8 people there. There are ongoing crime and safety issues in the neighborhood. They would like to have street lights on Roanoke Ave. They are also concerned with the debris that was deposited from the Franklin Road Bridge project. Ms. Lewis brought up that the RNA might help them do a picnic. Mr. Houck attended the Arches Project on behalf of Norwich – public art project for Memorial Bridge.

*Old Southwest*

He met with Ms. McNulty. They are concerned with a zoning issue – there is a house that is zoned multi-use and the Second Presbyterian Church is using it as multi-family. Mr. Leftwich indicated that the church applied for a special exception to use it for a group-home style setting for Family Promise and possibly for work crews for Spring Break trips. The special exception was approved. Also at the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Elm Ave. there is a corner market that has just changed ownership. They have to recertify their ABC license with change of ownership. OSW has an agreement with the stores that one-off brown bag beverages cannot be sold in package stores, yet the ABC license was issued without that understanding. Mr. Leftwich indicated that the other stores in the area might want to back out of the agreement.

*Greater Deyerle*

Annual concert on Friday

**Ms. Rigby**

*Mountain View*

They have hung the banners on the light posts.

*Grandin Court*

Ms. Catheart sent a proposal for the caretaker's cottage. For their grant they were able to the sign before the deadline.

**Reports of Officers – Standing Committees**

**Unfinished Business**

- **Block Party Kits**

Ms. Purviance and Ms. Pickett made all of the purchases. There was 11 cents leftover in the budget. The RNA needs to develop a system for signing out the party kits. Ms. Pickett is suggesting a QR code for the items. The bags still need sand – Ms. Purviance suggests that water bottles are filled with sand and put in the bags instead of loose sand. Ms. Pickett will send the document to Ms. Lewis so that she can develop a pamphlet to roll out the party kit. Ms. Pickett is hoping to have the kit available by National Night Out. Ms. Pickett will research with the City Departments about how to link the checkout system and storage. The RNA needs to develop the rules.

**New Business**

- **Code Enforcement Update**

Ms. Lewis met with Dan Webb with Code Enforcement as he had concerns after the RNA City Council Presentation. Mr. Webb gave her a handout that explained how the process works. There is still some confusion about some of the follow-up on work orders. Ms. Pickett explained that the goal is compliance, not punitive. Ms. Lewis suggest gathering photographs of code enforcement violations and bringing them in front of code enforcement for clarification. Mr. Leftwich also suggested that the RNA follow-up with Mr. Cowell about his bucket of tools for addressing problem properties.

- **Committee Development**

Grant Program, Neighborhood Potluck/Awards, and Building/Supporting Neighborhoods. These committees will be formed in August. In the meantime, RNA members need to send Ms. Lewis the committees they wish to serve on. Ms. Lewis worked with Ms. Pickett and Mr. Holland to look at the application that the West End submitted for their bus shelter. Ms. Moon is aggregating the responses to the Facebook poll about bus shelters and Ms. Lewis will meet with Valley Transportation to determine which shelters to pursue.

**Open Forum/Announcements**

Share the Citizen of the Year Award with the Neighborhoods. Ms. Pickett is getting a clarification on the waiver, but let neighborhoods know that it is not needed at this stage of the nomination process.

**Adjourn**

Adjourned at 7:12pm.