

Minutes from RNA Meeting on May 8, 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
Jackie Moon
Cindy Pasternak

Committee Members Absent

Bill Houck, Jr.
Jamaal L. Jackson
Sunni Purviance

Guests

Wayne Leftwich – City Planner
Joe Cobb – Vice Mayor

Welcome to Members and Guests

Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 5:37 and welcomed all members and guests.

Reading and Approval of Minutes

Ms. Rigby moved to adopt the Agenda. Ms. Moon seconded. Passed unanimously. Ms. Rigby made a motion to accept minutes as amended. Ms. Pasternak seconded. Passed unanimously.

Guest Presentations

- **Joe Cobb, Vice Mayor**

The first meeting of the Gun Violence Task Force will be on the 14th of May. Mr. Jackson will represent the RNA. They want to expand out into some larger community conversations. They will be looking at the gaps and what kind of partnerships that don't exist that should and will lay out action steps. Ms. Lewis indicated that she/RNA would be willing to help with moving legislation forward to allow a gun buyback program in the City. They have been looking at models from other cities to inform the task force. They ultimately want the City to facilitate the beginning and for the task force to be citizen lead.

Reports of Special Interest

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

There are two additional equity meetings. One at Williams Memorial Baptist Church on May 23rd and one at Belmont Library. Launching the Welcoming Roanoke Initiative: it is administered through a grant to develop a Roanoke Immigration inclusion plan at Williamson Road on May 21st. Local Colors is on May 18th. There will be a survey there that is mostly administered by the partners in the City of Roanoke. Sunday May 19th @2:00 is the Gainsboro Neighborhood Walk. The Oak Grove meetings were well attended and there should be a draft plan by the end of the summer. They are looking at how to make it a place/village center that serves the neighborhood more. There is also some under-utilized county space in that area that provides an opportunity for expanded park space. There are some informal walking trails in that neighborhood already. The crosswalk in particular was of major concern. There is funding from VDOT for a pedestrian crossing in the next 3-4 years.

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

Neighborhood Events have been provided. At the MOTA meeting on Monday they will be providing specific updates about the Community Solutions Center. Not sure if food will be provided. The Civic Engagement Manager position has closed and they will be conducting interviews. There is also an Administrative position with the City Manager's office and a part time City Cultural Resources Manager position. She has printed the former Neighborhood Plans for the RNA members. She will find out more information about the cost-reimbursed grants.

There will be an intern in the City Manager's office this Summer. Ms. Pickett will also be working on the State of the Neighborhood report for the City Manager and developing a plan for increased neighborhood engagement.

- **Neighborhood Reports - All**

Ms. Lewis

Raleigh Court

No report.

South Roanoke Neighbors

No report. Tonya reported that you are not supposed to put signs in the Right of Way. Signs are not allowed to be in the right of way, there is an unspoken exception for neighborhood signs, but if a citizen makes a complaint, then the signs get taken away. You have to be careful not to block the line of sight in the roadway.

Grandin Village Business Association

The fire department came to talk to the businesses to talk about the "Nox Box" and its importance so that the fire department doesn't have to knock the door down. There is no requirement for smoke detectors in those businesses. Raleigh Court Neighborhood Association owns the Pops building and plans to take measures.

Mr. Wilson

Melrose-Rugby

The neighborhood is frustrated with trash from the renters. And with trash at the Family Dollar. They said that they don't have enough employees to deal with the trash. The fish fry went well. They are upset with how the neighborhood sign was put back up by VDOT

Fairland

The Evans Springs projects – Bran Townsend came and shared the project and talked about the due diligence of the City on the project. There is a meeting on June 3rd with the Community and the Developers at 6pm at La Cove.

Ms. Pasternak

Riverdale Farm

People were there to talk about how recycling is just #1 and #2. Tim Dayton with REACH was there and is on house #4 in Southeast. Sunrise Movement rep was there to talk about the New Green Deal. Cobblestone was there to talk about the Community Gardens in Morningside. Dave Blount with the county was there to talk about concerns with Explore park and the traffic that it generates. A lot of that will be rerouted from the Parkway. They are talking about doing National Night Out at Explore Park with the County.

Ms. Moon

Airlee Court

They are having a yard sale. They need help putting up and taking down signs for it that Ms. Moon will assist with. There is a new neighborhood flea market near Happys.

Ms. Rigby

No reports.

Reports of Officers – Standing Committees

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

The meeting will be at the Gish House in Old Southwest. The meeting will be on May 31st at 6:30. The invitations were mailed out. Check with the neighborhoods to make sure that they received them. Plan to be there at 5:00 to set up.

Unfinished Business

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

Ms. Lewis is finalizing them now for presentation at the June Council meeting. RNA will be under Mr. Cowell's report.

New Business

- **Block Party Kits**

It was mentioned in the last meeting to assemble kits. Ms. Purviance would be willing to serve on a committee to put together these kits. Ms. Pasternak will serve on that committee.

- **Statewide Neighborhood Conference**

The City was supposed to be sponsoring the opening ceremony, but they are already underwriting the conference and didn't have the budget for it. The RNA will sponsor the opening Ceremony for \$2500. Ms. Lewis will reach back out to Mr. Clement from the Statewide Neighborhood Conference.

Open Forum/Announcements

Closed Session called at 6:58

Adjourn

Ajourned at 7:17pm.