

Minutes from RNA Meeting on August 14, 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

Vice-Mayor Joe Cobb
Wayne Leftwich – City Planner
Henri Gendreau – Roanoke Times
Monet Malek – Ms. Purviance's Daughter

Welcome to Members and Guests

Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 5:35pm and welcomed all members and guests.

Reading and Approval of Minutes

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

Reports of Special Interest

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

There is a presentation on September 3rd with the Planning Commission – this is a public meeting. He will give the RNA that same update at the September meeting as they are still working on the report. They are also working on the Welcome Roanoke plan and they met with the Refugee Dialogue Committee. They hope to have some draft policies in place for welcoming week in September – they will have a list of events out on Social Media about the events. They are meeting on August 15th to plan the events. Tiffany Bradbury is the new Citizen Engagement person and she will be helping to plan that. In the past they have done a soccer tournament party, Blue Ridge literacy has done a spelling bee, and Virginia Western might do some movie showings in Spanish and English – Toy Story 4.

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

The State of the City Address is August 29th at the Hotel Roanoke. Anyone can come and listen and not pay for the meal. There is a Prepareathon – an event to learn about Emergency Management. There is a meeting for Evans Springs put on by Pavilion Development. Ms. Rigby made a motion to approve the expenditure for three tickets for the State of the City Address for Ms. Pasternak, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Jackson. Mr. Houck seconded. Passed unanimously.

- **Neighborhood Reports - All**

For the sake of time and the necessity to adjourn the meeting by 6:25, the RNA members did not share reports.

Ms. Moon

Mansfield Neighborhood watch is trying to organize. There has been an uptick in crime in the neighborhood with a certain residence on the street. Ms. Lewis shared that the group submitted an Advocacy Petition to the RNA. The police have said to document everything, but to date no one has been caught doing anything once the police arrive. Ms. Pickett said that the RNA will be invited to the rescheduled Crime Prevention Meeting. She will invite them to the October meeting.

Mr. Houck asked if RNA members could submit reports. The RNA will do that moving forward.

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

- **Committee Development**

Subcommittees:

Grant Reviews

Mr. Houck, Ms. Rigby, Ms. Lewis

Awards Potluck Committee – this committee will need to meet soon – this is usually held the first Friday in November – this year that is the 1st, but the RNA is moving it to November 8th. The committee will look into moving the event to a different location.

Ms. Moon, Ms. Pasternak, Mr. Houck, Mr. Wilson

Neighborhood Development Committee

Ms. Purviance, Ms. Jackson, Ms. Rigby

- **VNSC Conference**

The RNA is hosting the opening ceremony on Thursday, September 12th at 6:00pm. They have asked for 2 volunteers to work the door to verify attendee credentials. Mr. Houck and Ms. Pasterak will volunteer. Ms. Lewis will send a volunteer sign up from Mr. Clement. Ms. Pickett is trying to organize a cleanup of the City's Neighborhoods earlier in the week.

- **City Council Resolution**

The City council meeting is September 3rd at the 2:00 session (a Tuesday because of Labor Day).

Ms. Moon is asking for assistance with the Social Media for RNA. Mr. Jackson suggested that all of the RNA members are administrators for the Facebook page so that all members can post and share events. We can see if a new member is able to take over. Ms. Moon also mentioned that she can put content together if the other RNA members are coming up with it.

Open Forum/Announcements

- **City Council - 9/3/19, 2:00 session**
- **Code Enforcement Court - 9/5/19, 2:00**

- **Virginia Statewide Neighborhood Conference - Thu, Sep 12, 2019 – Sat, Sep 14, 2019**

Ms. Pasternak has taken pictures of ~30 houses that have code issues in her neighborhood. Mr. Hofstetter sent Ms. Lewis pictures of violations on his way home from the July meeting. Ms. Pickett also said that we can go on Itrakit or GIS to see if there are any violations on the properties.

Ms. Pickett said that Old Southwest is having a meeting on August 15th about cybercrime, online issues, etc. Ms. Rigby is going to invite someone from Legal Aid to come to the November meeting to talk about tenant rights.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 6:14pm.