

Minutes from RNA Meeting on September 11, 2019

Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building
Room 159 (EOC) at 5:30 PM

Committee Members in Attendance

Kate Lewis, Chair
Ellie Rigby, Secretary
Bill Houck, Jr. – arrived at 5:39pm
Jamaal L. Jackson
Cindy Pasternak
Sunni Purviance

Committee Members Absent

Charles E. Wilson, Vice-Chair

Guests

Dan Callaghan – City Attorney
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 5:33pm and welcomed all members and guests.

Reading and Approval of Minutes

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

Guest Presentations

- **Dan Callaghan – City Attorney, Re: Appointments**

All current members of RNA are terminated as of September 30. Then council will vote in 5 members – 3 as three year terms and 2 as two year terms. Thereafter all terms will be three years. Then those 5 members will appoint 4 members- 2 three year terms and 2 two year terms. He will come back at the October meeting to review the by-laws prior to the Council meeting on October 10th. There will be amended/reinstated by-laws and articles of incorporation. Questions can go to Daniel.callaghan@roanokeva.gov

Reports of Special Interest

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

Welcoming week is September 13-22. The kickoff is Friday the 13th at the City Market Building. This is in partnership with Welcoming America to celebrate the diversity in the City. The City Plan 2040 Executive Summary Draft was presented at the last City Council meeting and to the Planning Commission. The next round of public meetings will occur in October after some working groups.

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

The welcoming week events are listed on the neighborhood services page. This month is Emergency Awareness month. The American Red Cross gives out free smoke alarms. There is a greenway trail/park meeting for how to put on events in public parks. Ms Lewis suggested that they hold one of these during an evening so working people can attend the information sessions. Mr. Houck and Ms. Pickett went to Code Enforcement Court – most cases were continued to October or November. Fines range from \$250-\$500. Mr. Houck suggested that you do not attend after a big lunch and that a \$250 fine is chump change. Ms. Pickett said that there were 56 cases over ~2 hours. The

September 16th Council is a public hearing for the land transfer of Oliver Hill Plaza to the Higher Education Center. There is some disagreement about this. She is working with the Southwest Virginia LGBTQ+ organization and they are putting on some events. Ms. Lewis asked Ms. Pickett to ask Mr. Cowell about the proposal to change the code enforcement rules that seems to have been tabled for the past year. There was a discussion about a toolbox and some other changes to be drafted. The RNA would like a draft to present to the neighborhoods and Ms. Pickett will arrange for Mr. Cowell to present them to the RNA. The recommendation for the Target Area from the Citizen Advisory Board will be presented to council in October, but the agenda is not official yet. Ms. Pickett also has a new cell phone. Ms. Pickett also provided the code enforcement contacts for each of the neighborhoods. The Public Information Officer and Neighborhood Services are coming under the same umbrella as Tiffany Bradshaw, so there might be more training funding available.

- **Neighborhood Reports - All**

No Reports

Reports of Officers – Standing Committees

- **Awards Ceremony Committee – Moon, Pasternak, Wilson, Houck**

Ms. Pasternak reported that she has been discussing the table cloth situation and decorations with Ms. Pickett. It will be at Fitzpatrick Hall on November 8th. Ms. Pickett will use her pcard, discounts, and tax exemption to purchase these items. The Jefferson Center indicated that Aztec Rental has them for \$8 each, but we can get them online. Mr. Jackson and Mr. Houck suggested Mr. Houck made a motion to purchase the table cloths. Ms. Rigby seconded. Passed unanimously. Ms. Pasternak is arranging the catering. Ms. Pickett is ordering the awards. Ms. Lewis will ask Barry Stacy for the PowerPoint presentation from last year. Ms. Lewis reminded the RNA to promote the nominations. The closing date is October 18th so the committee will have two weeks to make winner choices.

- **Grant Review Committee – Houck, Lewis, Rigby**

No report except for the need for a meeting with Ms. Pickett and Mr. Holland to discuss the grants.

- **Neighborhood Development Committee– Purviance, Jackson, Rigby**

Ms. Lewis has started a draft of a brochure for the party kits so that they can be presented at the Awards dinner. Ms. Pickett is looking into some software to track checking out the kits.

New Business

- **New RNA Appointees**

Ms. Moon has resigned. Ms. Pickett has provided the information about the applicants for the two vacant seats to review before next month's meeting when there will be a closed session to vote on the applicant.

- **Working Session with City Council**

At the last City Council meeting, Mr. Bepitch indicated wanting to review policies that affect the neighborhoods. Ms. Lewis suggests that the RNA have a working session with City Council in December in lieu of the regular RNA meeting. Ms. Pickett said that they are looking for an agenda and that we should have that by late October or early November. Ms. Rigby suggested soliciting feedback from the neighborhoods for topics and putting the Council Working Session Agenda on the October RNA agenda.

- **VNSC Conference**

Starts tomorrow! The RNA is hosting the welcoming reception.

Open Forum/Announcements

- **Virginia Statewide Neighborhood Conference - Thu, Sep 12, 2019 – Sat, Sep 14, 2019**
- **Tuesday, September 24th @7pm at South Roanoke United Methodist Church– South Roanoke Neighbors Meeting about the E-Library**
- **October 4th-6th Wasena Centennial Celebration**

Mr. Houck brought up that a downtown farmer's market vendor brought up some issues with the downtown market that their business has dwindled significantly since the market renovations. There is a perceived contraction in what is happening downtown. DRI is considered the downtown neighborhood organization. There is a group of businesses on Salem that are starting a group prior to the bus station being moved. There are also businesses in the 4th-5th Street block of Campbell that are organizing in order to be able to put murals on their walls.

Mr. Jackson asked for an update on the Evans Springs meetings. Mr. Leftwich said that they were productive in terms of the neighborhoods lending their voices. There were a lot of questions and work that the developers need to address. There will be another open meeting before they apply for the rezoning. There were concerns about Urban Renewal, pricing people out of the neighborhood, and whether this was for the neighborhood.

Ms. Lewis said that at City Council they said that they would be providing an update on the 10th Street project. It is tentatively supposed to be finished in November.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 6:34pm.