

Minutes of the 4/14/21 Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates Meeting - 5:49PM

In attendance were:

Jamaal Jackson, Vice Chair
Bill Houck, Secretary
Amazetta Anderson
Sunni Purviance
Rosheta Chase (via Zoom)
Brian Bennett
Joe Cobb, Vice Mayor and City Council Member
Tiffany Bradbury, Community Engagement Manager, City of Roanoke
Wayne Leftwich, Senior City Planner, City of Roanoke
Joshua Johnson, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, City of Roanoke,

Absent:

Alicha Grubb, Chair
Michael Stamper
Adriane Tasco, Strategic Planning Facilitator

The meeting was called to order at 5:49 by Rev. Jackson. He welcomed the members and guests to the RNA's "new" meeting room in the historic City Hall, second floor.

There was a motion by Ms. Anderson to adopt the agenda & this was seconded by Mr. Bennett and approved. A motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2021 meeting was made by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Ms. Purviance and approved.

Next on the agenda were the Reports of Special Interest.

A) Jordan Bell was nominated to the remaining open seat on the RNA by Ms. Purviance, seconded by Mr. Bennett, and approved by the members of the RNA.

B) Ms. Bradbury then introduced Joshua Johnson as the "new" Neighborhood Services Coordinator reporting to the City Manager. Mr. Johnson come to the position well experienced from the Roanoke City Police Department, where he was Patrolman, then the Community Response Officer and later the Community Resource Officer. There he focused on listening & learning to find out what's important in many neighborhoods and implementing Capacity Building among those neighborhoods.

C) Ms. Bradbury next discussed Neighborhood Month where Neighborhood Awards Recipients were publicly recognized at the recent April City Council meeting. Recipients' names were read into the public record and the actual awards are to be personally delivered to the recipients at neighborhood venues. Further publicity will be effected via social media such as Facebook Live, on the City's website and through news releases to the local media outlets. And several recipients are also making videos and posting their successes to social media. Furthermore, Ms. Bradbury shared that she continually pushes out fresh "good" news about what each neighborhood is doing.

Next Rev. Jackson suggested the RNA organize an introduction meeting, so our members can get to know the various neighborhood leaders and they can learn about the RNA's revamped Mission once the Strategic Plan has been completed. He also reminded the group to re-engage the Presidents' Council, so the various presidents can share the state of their neighborhoods and best practices in getting things organized, planned and completed. As an example, Ms. Anderson shared her success in garnering a grant from the Virginia Cooperative Extension for a community garden on London Ave. and 6th Street,

where she and other volunteers teach children how to prepare soil, plant seeds, and tend to the new plants as they grow into nutritious foods.

Ms. Anderson then reviewed a solid list of “Neighbors’ Responsibilities” and suggestions of how each neighborhood should interface with the RNA to maximize effectiveness. She recommended again that Northwest Roanoke is where the greatest and most immediate need is currently and because of the continuing Covid restrictions, encouraged outdoor meetings.

As Ms. Tasco, Ms. Grubb, Mr. Stamper, & Mr. Bell were not in attendance, Rev. Jackson decided to “table” and further strategic planning this evening.

Mr. Houck called for adjournment at 7 PM, which was seconded by Ms. Anderson, and approved by the members.

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