

## ROANOKE NEIGHBORHOOD ADVOCATES

Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building  
215 Church Avenue, SW, Room 364 South  
Roanoke, Virginia 24011  
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**Members:** Alichia Grubb, Chair; Jamaal Jackson, Vice Chair; Bill Houck, Jr., Secretary; Sunni Purviance, Amazetta Anderson, Brian Bennett, Rosheta Chase, Michael Stamper, Jordan Bell

### RNA Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the 3/10/21 Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates Meeting  
Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building- HR Boardroom, third floor; 5:30 p.m.

#### **Minutes of the 3/10/21 Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates Meeting – 5:30 PM**

##### **In attendance:**

**Alichia Grubb, Chair Bill Houck, Secretary**

**Sunni Purviance Amazetta Anderson**

**Rosheta Chase Brian Bennett Michael Stamper (via Zoom)**

**Wayne Leftwich, Senior City Planner, City of Roanoke**

**Tiffany Bradbury, Community Engagement Mgr., City of Roanoke**

**Adrian Tasco, Develop. Project Mgr., PowerSchool Group, LLC and RNA Planning Facilitator**

##### **Absent:**

**Jamaal Jackson, Vice Chair**

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM by a motion from Mr. Bennett & seconded by Ms. Anderson and approved.

Ms. Grubb introduced & welcomed Ms. Tasco, Ms. Bradbury, & Mr. Leftwich. The question arose about whether the RNA could have virtual meetings and Ms. Bradbury advised they could as long as these meetings were publicized.

There was a motion by Ms. Anderson to adopt the agenda & this was seconded by Mr. Bennett and approved. Another motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2021 meetings was made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Bennett and approved.

A report of Special Interest was made by way of a letter in support of the Futsal Court initiative. The letter advocated the modification of underused tennis courts into “mini” soccer fields. A motion to accept the report was made by Mr. Bennett and seconded by Ms. Chase, then approved.

Please see Ms. Grubbs email from March 8, 2021.

“You'll notice there is something on the agenda to discuss futsal. Tiffany and I have been contacted by group in Roanoke led by Landon Moore and Elvir Berbic that futsal courts around Roanoke. These are mini soccer courts placed on old, unused tennis courts. Here some info I was given about the next court they are looking to put in Preston Park: "there has already been a successful petition with 400+ signatures, a Facebook page with 260+ likes

and followers, and well attended tournament in November 2020 at the Preston Park location. Valarie Brown, on behalf of the Williamson Road Area Business Association, sent a letter of support last week. As you are likely aware, there is not a formal active neighborhood association in the Preston Park area so we have reached out to the neighboring associations. Ben Burch from the Airlee Court Neighborhood has shared that they believe it would be “a good thing for the area” and thanked us for reaching out to their neighborhood. I have sent a couple of messages to Colbert "Bert" Boyd with the Greater Grandview Neighborhood and look forward to talking with him soon."

"Our initial proposal included building two futsal courts and leaving one tennis court at the location. While we understand that there are further negotiations on such a request, we hope that whatever the outcome is it addresses the recreational inequalities in the area. Landon Moore who manages the non-profit Star City Soccer Foundation, and I have been working on this project for nearly two years. You'll see that in our proposal we have tried to address three primary issues with this project:

1) Repurposing unused or underutilized tennis courts; 2) Creating an equitable recreational resource; 3) Addressing health disparities in the specific area.

Below is the breakdown of what we've done and accomplished thus far:

- Created an online petition in support of the project. The petition gathered nearly 430 signatures
- Created a Facebook page which currently has 266 followers: <https://www.facebook.com/PrestonParkFutsal>
- Held a fundraising event in November of 2020 at the location of the project (see photos on the Facebook page)
- Secured \$10,000 in the agreement with Roanoke's Parks & Rec. According to the MOU, the funds will be donated to the city which they will use to start and complete the project.

Gathered support of Williamson Road Business Association."

I've also attached some photos. Please review this information and check out the facebook page before Wednesday. We will be voting on whether we should write a letter of support for the futsal courts. Note, this is just a letter of support for the courts, it has nothing to do with zoning, property use, funding, etc."

Ms. Grubb then opened discussion on how to present the Roanoke Neighborhood Awards to 9 “Winners” by 7 City Council members. Initially the winners will be announced by Social Media posts and then City Council will make the presentation via Zoom/Facebook Live at the first April Council meeting. Eventually the RNA will present the awards in person to the recipients at appropriate sites in the respective neighborhoods. Then this recognition of the “Harvesting of the Fruit” will continue throughout April & May on Social media.

There were no Reports of Officers or Standing Committees.

Next Ms. Grubb invited Ms. Tasco to lead the group toward the completion of the RNA’s Strategic Plan with a quick review of the March 10 efforts. We focused on key words (i.e. “foster engaged neighborhoods”) and on the RNA’s goals and pillars, duties & responsibilities. It’s imperative that a completion timeline be set for the wrap-up of the Strategic Plan.

At 7 PM, Ms. Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Mr. Houck. Ms. Grubb adjourned the meeting.

**Next Scheduled  
Meeting :**

**WEDNESDAY**  
**4/11/2021 5:30PM**

Please mark your  
calendars accordingly