

# ROANOKE NEIGHBORHOOD ADVOCATES

Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building  
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## MINUTES

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Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2022  
Time: 5:30 pm  
Location: Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building | HR Boardroom, Third Floor

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MEMBERS	Alicha Grubb, Chair	Amazetta Anderson*	Jordan Bell*
	Jamaal Jackson, Vice Chair	Rachel Hall	Sunni Purviance
	Cheryl Hilton, Secretary	Mark Kary	Duriel Wood*

\*Absent

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Agenda Item	Report/Discussion
Call to Order	Alicha Grubb, Chair of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates, called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm. There were no guest present.
Adoption of Agenda	Alicha made the agenda available for review and adoption. <b>MOTION:</b> To adopt the agenda with spelling correction of Mark Kary.  Jackson/Kray – Unanimous Consent
Reading and Approval of Minutes	Minutes from the February and March meetings of the RNA were displayed for review.  <b>MOTION:</b> To accept the minutes of the February 9, 2022 meeting of the RNA. Purviance/Jackson – Unanimous Consent <b>MOTION:</b> To accept the minutes of the March 9, 2022 meeting of the RNA. Purviance/Kray – Unanimous Consent
Reports of Officers - Standing Committees	<b>SECRETARY</b> Cheryl Hilton accepted the position of RNA Secretary.  <b>MAY MEETING</b> Alicha will be out of town during the May meeting.  <i>*Jamaal will facilitate the May 11 meeting of the RNA.</i>  <b>NEIGHBORHOOD MONTH</b> <b>Workshops (Neighborhood Conference)</b> – Alicha has reserved the conference room at the Main Library on the 28 <sup>th</sup> of May. This date conflicts with Festival in the Park. An alternative date of June 11 was determined.

Agenda Item	Report/Discussion
<p>Reports of Officers - Standing Committees (continued)</p>	<p><b>Local Colors</b> – The RNA was approved as a vendor on May 21 between the hours of 11:00 am and 5:00 pm. Each board member was encouraged to attend for any length of time. (Josh, Jamaal, and Mark anticipate being there.) Casual Attire – RNA tee shirts.</p> <p><b>GRANTS</b> The board was split into two discussion and planning groups. Neighborhood Month – Alich, Jamaal, Mark Grants – Josh, Cheryl, Sunni</p> <p><b>NATIONAL NIGHT OUT</b> Sunni questioned if we are still moving to have National Night Out as a Citywide event. Josh mentioned several groups have already started planning their events such as the Greater Williamson Road Business Association. Perhaps, Northwest groups that lack strength and manpower can convene a communitywide event.</p> <p><b>UPDATE FROM SUBCOMMITTEES</b> – Report out of Neighborhood Month and Grants groups.</p> <p><b>Local Colors</b> Booth Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laptop with internet access and power source to lookup participant’s addresses and match them with corresponding neighborhood organizations. Collect participant’s information to share with the neighborhood president and provide the president’s contact information.</li> <li>• Sign-up sheets on clip boards with pens</li> <li>• Contact Information – RNA Brochures</li> <li>• Small water bottles to give away</li> <li>• Fun things, swag – Popcorn machine, yard games</li> </ul> <p>Josh to follow-up with Local Colors to see where the RNA booth will be located. We would like to be placed in a location that provides a power source.</p> <p>Josh is meeting with the GIS team to get a large map of Roanoke to give people the opportunity to use flags to indicate their locations. A great tool to show the diversity of our neighborhood composition.</p> <p>Alich’s Future Goal – “My Big Idea” Alich would like to have a feature in the GIS system where anyone can scan a QR code that will take them directly to the page where you type in your address, and it takes you directly to your neighborhood organization contact information.</p>

Agenda Item	Report/Discussion
<p>Reports of Officers - Standing Committees (continued)</p>	<p><b>Neighborhood Month – Leadership Conference</b>  June 11, 2022   10:00 am – 3:00 pm   TBD</p> <p>Goal: A minimum of 20 neighborhood leaders or individuals looking to form or revitalize neighborhood groups.</p> <p>Opening (Joint Session) – Alichia &amp; Josh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro the RNA, Benefits of RNA</li> <li>• Show the Website, Events, Grant Applications</li> </ul> <p>Short Transition with snacks and water bottles</p> <p>35 – 45-minute sessions   Pick 2 of 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to Create a Neighborhood Group – Josh</li> <li>• Use of Social Media – Casey Lewis &amp; Carol Corbin</li> <li>• Forming a 501(c)(3) – Alichia</li> </ul> <p>Lunch – Panel for Safety (Firearm and Fire Safety)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gun Safety, Trigger Locks - Duriel</li> <li>• Accessibility and Safety – Mark</li> <li>• Fire Safety, Smoke Detectors -Rachel</li> <li>• General Safety from a Police Perspective – Josh (Josh suggested Safeside Tactical as additional panelists)</li> <li>• MC – Jamaal</li> </ul> <p>Short Transition</p> <p>35 – 45-minute sessions   Pick 2 of 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event Planning – Sunni</li> <li>• Capacity Building – Alichia</li> <li>• Grants – Cheryl &amp; Josh</li> </ul> <p>Discussion on Location – Parking often an issue for downtown meeting events. Melrose Library &amp; Goodwill as an option.</p> <p><i>*Alichia will get a flyer created to publicize the event ensuring parking information is available if the Main Library is the meeting site.</i></p> <p><i>*Alichia will check with the Melrose Library/Goodwill Classroom space.</i></p> <p><i>*Put together talking points for the workshops to be discussed in June meeting.</i></p> <p><i>*She will also check with Safeside Tactical for panel support.</i></p> <p><b>Grants</b></p> <p>Spark Plug Grants</p> <p>The proposal for funding Spark Plugs grants was presented to Bob Cowell but denied in its current iteration. It was suggested that grantees must hold nonprofit status to be awarded grant funding.</p> <p>This of course, puts many neighborhood organizations at a disadvantage in that few neighborhood groups hold nonprofit status.</p>

Agenda Item	Report/Discussion
<p>Reports of Officers - Standing Committees (continued)</p>	<p>Perhaps funding can be provided to help groups get nonprofit status – grants to become nonprofit organizations. Approximate cost is between \$400 - \$500.</p> <p>Neighborhood Mini-Grants The proposal is on Bob’s desk. Josh has not heard back on the status of the mini-grants proposal.</p> <p>There are limited funds available through Neighborhood Improvement grants. However, these funds are available for reimbursement for neighborhood projects.</p> <p>Budget goes before City Council on Monday, April 18 and will include the proposed request of \$50,000 to support neighborhood initiatives.</p> <p>Possible workarounds were discussed to support neighborhoods in the absence of nonprofit status.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fund a consultant to assist neighborhood organizations with the application process.</li> <li>• Offer workshops for groups to help with the process.</li> <li>• Possibly paying for the application process through reimbursement funding.</li> </ul> <p>*Josh to invite Bob to an upcoming RNA meeting at the suggestion of the board to discuss nonprofit status for neighborhood groups and policies and procedures governing funding options for these groups.</p> <p><b>Actions for the Next Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alichia will call everyone to talk about the talking points for the workshops.</li> <li>• Jamal will chair the May 11 meeting.</li> <li>• Josh will poll the neighborhood organizations to gather information in preparation for National Night Out and to determine the need for planning by the RNA during the May 11 meeting.</li> </ul>
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm. The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 5:30 pm.</p>