

Minutes from RNA Meeting on January 13, 2016
Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building
Room 159 (EOC) at 5:30 p.m.

Committee Members in Attendance

Amy Morgan, Chair
Antwyne Calloway, Vice-Chair
Barbara Evans, Secretary
Brenda A. Allen
Chris H. Craft
Scott Horchler
C.J. Meidlinger
David Parr

Committee Members Absent

Kenya Huffman
Johnny Williams

Guests

Chris Morrill, Roanoke City Manager

Welcome to Members and Guests

Chair Morgan called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM and welcomed those present and recognized guests.

Reading and Approval of Minutes

Copies of the December 9, 2015 meeting minutes were distributed for review. Mr. Craft moved to approve the December 9, 2015 RNA Meeting Minutes and the motion was seconded by Mr. Horchler. Hearing no further discussion, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Guest Presentations

Chair Morgan introduced Chris Morrill and noted the purpose of inviting him was to seek input on how the city communicates with neighborhoods and their citizens. Mr. Morrill provided a brief presentation on the city's MyRoanoke Notifications, noting the wide variety of e-alerts available for one to sign up to receive, and then demonstrated the ease of the sign up process. He asked the RNA to help share this information with the neighborhoods through the meetings they attended and to advise him on any other communication avenues they think might be of benefit to the city to help get the word out.

Reports of Special Interest

A. Neighborhood Reports

Neighborhood reports were presented by all members present.

Mr. Horchler advised that the Southeast Action Forum meeting is researching the possibility of hosting a City Council Candidates 'Forum before the upcoming elections. He indicated that other

neighborhood groups have held forums in the past and thought it might be good for the neighborhood associations to work together on a joint forum rather than individual forums. No resolutions or motions were made. Mr. Horchler also advised that Kenwood Neighbors submitted a grant application through the Southeast Action Forum to purchase signs to hopefully slow down traffic through their neighborhood.

Chair Morgan reported that the Belmont Neighborhood Association had met and discussed the possibility of merging with the Starview Heights Neighborhood Watch Association following the president of that organization, John McGonigal, having a mild stroke. No final decision was made.

Ms. Allen reported she had recently been elected as president of the Historic Gainsboro Preservation District at their recent meeting. She noted the neighborhood was proud of recently having a dilapidated garage removed. Ms. Allen also reported that the Gainsborough SW Community Organization had recently elected officers for another year. She noted Police CRO Josh Johnson gave a report on crime statistics for the neighborhood which are down as compared to last year. This was followed by a report by Rev. Carter of St. Paul's Methodist regarding a community garden and educational center being planned for the neighborhood. Ms. Allen also noted the neighborhood organization was planning to have a Neighborhood Month block party in May.

Secretary Evans reported she had recently attended a meeting of the Grandin Court Neighborhood Association held right before Christmas. She noted Police Chief Chris Perkins was the guest speaker who spoke to roughly 30 people in attendance. Secretary Evans attributed the successful attendance at the meeting to the organization's outreach efforts including Facebook postings, door-to-door canvassing, and the newspaper.

Mr. Parr reported a large police presence at the recent Greater Grandview Area NH Watch meeting as their concerns regarding a walkway between the neighborhood and ValleyView mall was discussed. He also noted the organization hopes to establish block captains and create a newsletter this year.

Vice-Chair Calloway reported he had attended the NNEO holiday gathering as well as the recent Gainsborough SW Community Organization. He noted he had been unsuccessful in contacting the presidents of his other assigned neighborhood groups.

Mr. Meidlinger and Mr. Craft mutually agreed in a change of neighborhood responsibility as Mr. Meidlinger would begin reporting on Star View Heights Neighborhood Watch and Mr. Craft would take over the responsibility of reporting on Morningside Manor Neighborhood Watch.

Reports of Officers – Standing Committees

None

Unfinished Business

A. Update Regarding April 2016 RNA Sponsored Workshops

Chair Morgan led a discussion about RNA sponsored workshops. She noted she was planning to look at the Salvation Army and Mt. View Recreation Center as possible locations for the event. Chair Morgan stated based upon the feedback received from the survey's returned following the

Harvesting of the Fruits & Award Dinner held last November, she was thinking six (6) workshops could be offered. No resolutions or motions were made.

B. Discussion Regarding Work Session with City Council

Following a brief discussion, the RNA decided to invite Mr. Steve Buschor and Mr. Donnie Underwood of Roanoke Parks & Recreation to the next RNA meeting to talk about planned park upgrades.

New Business

A. 2016 Grant Review Committee

Mr. Clement reminded the RNA that FY2016-2017 Neighborhood Development Grant applications are due in his office by Friday, January 15. He asked for volunteers to serve on this year's RNA Grants Review Committee. Following a brief discussion, the following RNA members volunteered to serve: Mr. Craft, Mr. Calloway, Mr. Meidlinger, and Mr. Parr. As Mr. Williams had participated in the past, Chair Morgan stated she would contact him to see if he also had an interest in serving. Mr. Clement stated he would provide copies of the applications received to each committee member and advise them when the date, place and time had been set to review, prioritize and recommend funding amounts of the applications hopefully in time for the committee to make a final funding recommendation to the RNA at their February meeting.

Open Forum/Announcements

- Mr. Clement reminded everyone of the upcoming MLK Holiday on January 18 when city municipal offices would be closed.
- Mr. Craft suggested the RNA present Police Chief Perkins with a Certificate of Appreciation when he retires. Mr. Craft indicated that perhaps he could generate a certificate on his computer. Secretary Evans suggested that the RNA should purchase a plaque if the RNA was going to make a presentation. Following a brief discussion it was decided Mr. Craft would get estimates on a plaque and provide at the next RNA meeting. Secretary Evans moved that Mr. Craft get pricing for a plaque to be presented to Chief Chris Perkins from the RNA in appreciation of his service to our neighborhoods. Mr. Parr seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion the motion was approved.
- Vice Chair Calloway expressed a concern regarding "restoration of rights". He noted at the present time there is a restriction that will not allow someone who has been convicted of a crime to serve as a coach or assistant coach of a city recreation team. He then read "Any person who has been convicted of, or has a pending charge pertaining to, any of the disqualifying offenses listed in this policy will be immediately disqualified from coaching (either as a head coach or an assistant coach) in any athletic program approved by the Parks and Recreation Department. A coach who willfully fails to comply with this background screening policy shall be automatically disqualified." Vice-Chair Callaway asked that the RNA consider requesting City Council to change the city's policy to cover "restoration of rights". No resolutions or motions were made.

Adjournment

Chair Morgan adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.