

# Minutes from RNA Meeting on April 13, 2016

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

## **Committee Members in Attendance**

Amy Morgan, Chair  
Antwyne Callaway, Vice Chair  
Barbara Evans, Secretary  
Brenda Allen  
Chris Craft  
Scott Horchler  
C.J. Meidlinger  
Johnny Williams

## **Committee Members Absent**

Kenya Huffman  
David Parr

## **Guests**

Audra Chambers – E911 Supervisor  
John Garland, Roanoke City Council Candidate  
Michelle Dykstra (late arrival) Roanoke City Council Candidate  
Martin Jeffrey (late arrival) Roanoke City Council (Write in Candidate)

## **Welcome to Members and Guests**

Chair Morgan called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM and welcomed those present and recognized guests.

## **Reading and Approval of Minutes**

Copies of the March 16, 2016 meeting minutes were distributed for review. Mr. Craft moved to approve the March 16, 2016 RNA Meeting Minutes and the motion was seconded by Mr. Horchler. Hearing no further discussion, the minutes were unanimously approved.

## **Note**

Prior to guest presentations, Chair Amy Morgan addressed the RNA members. Ms. Morgan had received input at the Belmont Meeting from city council candidates regarding RNA committee member's attendance at neighborhood meetings. Some neighborhoods feel RNA members are not attending their meetings. Ms. Morgan encouraged members to invite the presidents of their neighborhood associations to attend RNA meetings.

## **Guest Presentations**

A. Chair Morgan introduced Candidate John Garland. Mr. Garland asked how RNA members were assigned to the neighborhoods. Mr. Garland also had questions regarding how neighborhoods got access to city council.

- B. Audra Chambers, E911 Supervisor addressed the committee about 911 calls. 911 is developing program to allow text messages to E911. Ms. Chambers invited all committee members and guests to tour the E911 Center. Tour took place prior to committee giving neighborhood reports.

## **Reports of Special Interest**

### **A. Neighborhood Reports**

Neighborhood reports were presented by all members present.

Ms. Allen reported on Gainsborough SW Community Organization Block Party Plans. The May Block Party for Neighborhood Month will be held across from Gainsboro Library. Ms. Allen also reported a speaker from Roanoke E911 attended the Historic Gainsboro Preservation District meeting after which plans were discussed to address their neighborhood alleys' clean-up. No report provided on Greater Huntington Neighborhood Watch.

C.J. Meidlinger provided no reports but stated he will be able to attend meetings next month.

Chris Craft reported that he was unable to represent Morningside Manor Neighborhood Watch to which Mr. Williams responded that he would be willing to do so. No reports were provided on Old Southwest and Garden City.

Barbara Evans provided no reports due to her recent surgery.

Chair Morgan reported that some Starview members attended the Belmont meeting. She also noted Riverland/Walnut Hill had no scheduled meeting and that she had not been able to attend the meeting of the Mountain View Neighborhood Association.

Mountain View President Michelle Dykstra who was in attendance at RNA meeting reported on Mountain View. Ms. Dykstra reported that crime was down, things were looking good. She also noted the group was excited to be involved with the Parks & Arts event scheduled on August 6 at Mt. View.

Vice Chair Antwyne Callaway reported that NNIC would be meeting the following week. Mr. Callaway reported that NNEO had their meeting with their new president Reverend Carter. Reverend Carter encouraged the members to be out in the community and at more meetings. He also noted Hurt Park President Reverend Jimmy Cook spoke regarding the Hurt Park Community Garden. Loudon Melrose would be meeting the following week.

Scott Horchler reported Southeast Action Forum was doing a newsletter and doing it well. There was discussion at meeting about proposal that Firehouse#6 become a community based center. The center could serve as an incubator for ideas and a gathering place for residents as well as a place to maintain community history. The ideas presented were visions with no practical plan for how to put plans into action. The neighborhood has a new website, southwestroanokea.com.

Johnny Williams reported that RRHA has a grant (income based) to help people 50 years of age and above to obtain free dentures and eyeglasses. Mr. Williams also reported that Friday night's police officers arrive for the weekend walking the halls, crime is now down.

## **Unfinished Business**

- A. Chair Morgan updated committee on plans for April 30, 2016 workshop. La Cove Catering providing breakfast and box lunches. Volunteer signup list was passed out to members.

## **Open Forum/Announcements**

City council candidates Michelle Dykstra, John Garland and Martin Jeffrey asked questions regarding RNA Budget and how to get people involved in neighborhood organizations.

## **Adjournment**

Chair Morgan adjourned the meeting at 6:49 p.m.