

Minutes of June 11, 2019 Board Meeting

The meeting, which was held at Hotel Indigo, was called to order at 5:30 pm by President Richard Mones.

Board Members Present: Howard Davis, Allison Ficken, Jim Lampl, David Lough, Richard Mones and Debbie Trice. Absent: Ryan McBride and Sue Stewart. Members present: Grace Howl, Pam Mones and Moriah Taliaferro

Board activities since the last meeting

May 30 Community Workshop was canceled.

AGENDA ITEMS

Point of Order:

David requested that a discussion of the TIF financing of TBPC being negotiated between the City and County be added to the agenda. After discussion of whether agendas set by the president may be modified, it was agreed to add the item under New Business with a 5 minute time limit. M: Howard; S: Jim; Passed

Approval of the Minutes:

Minutes of the May 28 Board meeting were accepted. M: Jim; S: David; Passed

Treasurer's Report:

May bank account statement ending balance: \$3,124.42

Running Adjusted Balance as of June 11 \$3,256.77

Allison raised the issue of the prior Board's 2/12/19 approval of a \$1,000 partial payment of a consultation fee to CODAworx. She raised 3 concerns: the limited funds in the Treasury, current Board's lack of knowledge about the project or its scope, and lack of a contract to examine. Howard and Richard updated the Board on the project's initial intent and subsequent failure to reach an agreement with CODAworx on project scope. Consequently, discussions ended without a contract and there is no longer a need to set aside funds for it.

A question about the status of the checking account signatories prompted a discussion of a pending switch to Gulfside Bank which is a member of RDA. Debbie asked Allison to give her advance notice of the transition so she can shut down online collection of dues until the transition is complete.

President's Report:

Richard thanked everyone for their efforts rallying the neighborhood and lobbying the City Commission on the RROD and Parks topics on the June 3 City Commission Agenda. He also reported that he offered Hotel Indigo a RDA membership with fee waived for 2019 as a "thank you" for hosting our Board meetings.

Agenda 1. Replace Emilie Campos on Board

After discussion, a consensus was reached that the person appointed to replace Emilie had to be another non-resident stakeholder to preserve the balance mandated in the Bylaws. Motion to offer the Board seat to Grace Howl. M: Howard; S: Jim; Passed. Grace accepted.

Agenda 2. Topics/Speakers for 7/17 Community Meeting

Suggestions included Willie Shaw, Tom Barwin and Marlon Brown. Motion to invite Tom Barwin to speak, and Marlon Brown if Barwin is unavailable. M: David; S: Allison; Passed. A suggestion was made that the format be a moderator posing questions to Barwin.

Agenda 4. Increasing Membership

Jim indicated that the Business Alliance was still small: himself, Howard, Steve Bradley, Greg Hall, Arnie Seitel, and now Grace. They are trying to determine a purpose for existing and how RDA can help businesses.

Agenda 3(1) Recap June 3 City Commission – RROD topic

Howard reported that the City Commission “hijacked” the Staff's zoning presentation to focus on attainable housing. Ignoring the two years spent by staff and Rosemary District representatives crafting a cohesive proposal, City Commissioners revised it “on the fly,” requesting staff to come back with a plan requiring affordable units at a lower density threshold.

Agenda 3(2) Recap June 3 City Commission – Park Implementation Plan topic

David reported that the City re-confirmed that development of a Rosemary Park is proceeding on a “parallel track” separate from the main Park Implementation Plan. They are definitely moving forward to appraise the 1386 Blvd of the Arts & 531 Central Ave properties.

David asked that the Board reaffirm our May 15 letter to the Mayor listing our priorities.
M: David; S: Jim; Passed.

Agenda 5 STOP proposal re Public Hearings at June 17 City Commission meeting

Richard explained that the Commission will be considering a revision to the conditions under which new development will be subject to a public hearing instead of an Administrative Review. One of the problems with Administrative Review is that regulations concerning “compatibility” seem to be ignored. Howard believes that some of the proposed changes make sense; others don't. The larger problem is the process itself.

Consensus of the Board is that RDA should draft and send its own letter to the City Commission, rather than simply support the STOP group's position. Howard and Richard will draft the letter.

Debbie reminded the Board that the Bylaws require the Secretary to keep a file of all official correspondence – incoming and outgoing. She asked that Board members forward copies of all official correspondence to RosemaryDistrictAssociation@gmail.com when sent or received.

Another issue is that RDA doesn't learn about some public hearings. We need to find out how to get on relevant mailing lists.

Agenda 6 Art Banner Program

Due to the lateness of the hour, Allison was asked if we could postpone her presentation AGAIN, with the understanding that it would be placed at the beginning of the next Board meeting. She agreed.

Old Business

Website Neighborhood Grant: Debbie reported that the RDA Working Group has parted ways with the web developer due to lack of cooperation and shared vision. Also, Debbie has already performed some of the work and our needs have changed. Pam Mones and Debbie will meet with Nancy Kelly to find out if we can contract with new vendors for a different scope of work.

New Business

David expressed concern about the TIF being negotiated between the City and County to help finance The Bay Park Conservancy. Howard and Richard indicated that problems are being quietly addressed behind the scenes, and that any action by RDA at this time would not be helpful.

Allison reported that the City of Sarasota Public Art Committee has selected 3 finalists each for the 10th Street and 14th Street Roundabouts. The finalists will make presentations at the July 17 Public Art Committee Meeting that begins at 1:00.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 9.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Trice, Secretary