

Minutes of September 10, 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, Jim Lampl, David Lough (by phone), Richard Mones, Sue Stewart, Moriah Taliaferro and Debbie Trice. Absent: Grace Howl, Ryan McBride. Visitors: Kathryn Parks and Francis Scheuer.

Board activities since the last meeting:

Online vote on MOTION: (by Debbie; Second by Grace) The RDA Board rescinds its selection of logo design #3 and chooses design #8 for the RDA logo. Passed

AGENDA ITEMS

Secretary's Report & Approval of Minutes

Debbie reminded the Board that RDA began collecting dues in October, 2018, so we need to establish a membership renewal process soon. To avoid needing to process renewals every month, Debbie recommended that all RDA memberships come up for renewal on December 31, and asked for the following motion.

MOTION (by Howard; Second by Richard) that RDA institute annual calendar year memberships, but grant new members joining between October 1 and December 31 membership through the following calendar year. Passed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of August 13: Moved by Richard; Second by Howard; Passed

Treasurer and Replacement of Treasurer

No Board Member volunteered to serve as Treasurer. Richard (as President) has all the Treasurer's files and is able to sign checks. Most dues are received online and flow directly into RDA's bank account. The low level of activity required of the RDA Treasurer led to a consensus that Richard should retain the responsibility for now. Sue volunteered to fill an audit function as needed.

Vice President's Report

Sue reported on a public meeting with a consultant on the Newtown CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency) and recommended that RDA monitor the Plan Update process and potential effect on Rosemary District.

President's Report

Richard suggested that RDA needs to focus on involving neighborhood businesses in the organization. We also need to plan activities and events that engage the community and demonstrate RDA's value.

Next RDA Board Election / Bylaws Modification

At the first meeting of this Board in March, suggestions for Bylaws amendments were solicited. Debbie and Richard have been working on ideas discussed at that time and others subsequently submitted via email. Because RDA's election season is approaching, it is urgent that we consider potential amendments dealing with Board Terms and Elections.

One of the major suggestions was to change from 1-Year Board Terms to 2-Year Staggered Board Terms to provide continuity on the Board. If such a change is adopted, a transition process will also need to be agreed upon. The text of the proposed ByLaws Amendment for Staggered Terms and two alternative Transition Procedures were presented and discussed.

Because the Bylaws require that proposed Amendments be distributed to Board Members in writing at least 10 days before they can be voted on, no vote was planned at this meeting.

Agenda for November 13 Community Meeting

After discussion, we agreed to invite Colleen McGue (Chief Transportation Planner), Megan Lui (Transportation Planner) and Planning Director Steven Cover to participate in a Q&A Panel on Traffic and Transportation Planning. Howard will contact them about their availability.

We discussed developing a plan to get businesses to attend the meeting. We also agreed that we should again encourage attendees to gather at Mandeville after the meeting.

Committee Reports: Communications

Debbie reminded members to send her short pieces (less than 200 words) and/or photos to include in the newsletter. It goes out monthly on the 15th, so she needs the material by the 13th. Kathryn Parks, who does PR for Rosemary Square, promised to submit material.

Committee Reports: Community Relations

Sue signed up for Sarasota Police Citizens Academy. She expects that going on "ride-alongs" will be beneficial to the work of her committee.

Committee Reports: Events / Programs

Ryan emailed his report which Richard read aloud. Ryan is meeting with the Chalk Festival organizers to discuss the possibility of moving the event to Rosemary District. His FireFest team is beginning to ask businesses for donations.

Committee Reports: Open Space

David reported that the owner of our preferred site for a park has obtained a second appraisal. Jim and Howard pointed out a serious flaw in this appraisal which resulted in an inappropriately higher valuation than the first. The City is prepared to offer the figure in the first appraisal, and look at an alternate location if the offer isn't accepted.

MOTION (by Howard; Second by Jim) to write to the City reaffirming RDA's priorities as stated in our letter of May 15. Passed. Richard will write the letter.

Committee Reports: The Bay

Richard and Howard met with Bill Waddill and discussed the status of the TIF. Currently, the City is drafting a proposal with details to be presented to the County. Waddill will give RDA an opportunity to see the proposal when The Bay Park Conservancy receives a copy.

David expressed his ongoing concern that RDA is excluded from TIF negotiations despite the TIF's potential to significantly affect funding for improvements in Rosemary District. Jim cited Howard's and Richard's repeated responses that there's no room for RDA in the delicate TIF negotiations, and said "it's time to move on."

MOTION (by Jim; Second by Richard) to table discussion of TIF strategy, and only have updates on TIF. Passed 5-1-1

Committee Reports: Website Neighborhood Grant

Debbie reported that the project is on target to meet the City deadline of September 30.

However, to complete the work, she needs information from each Board Member. Moriah has

volunteered to be the focal point for receiving the requested Board Member Biographical Information and Committee information.

Debbie indicated that the new website will include a detailed Map and listing of all the neighborhood businesses. Member businesses will be invited to provide a web address, photo or PDF that their listing on the RDA website can link to. This feature was designed to address the need to offer value in RDA Business Membership.

Committee Reports: Zoning

Richard thanked Howard for successfully shepherding RROD-II to a unanimous first vote in the City Commission. Howard reported that the City has sent the required Comprehensive Plan Amendment to the State for approval. After State approval, RROD-II will be placed on the City Commission Agenda for final approval.

New Business

David reported that Josh Weiner is willing to hold a Community Meeting about The Bayside Club.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:45 pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 8 at 5:30–7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Trice, Secretary