

Minutes from RNA Meeting on March 11, 2020

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

Committee Members in Attendance

Kate Lewis, Chair
Charles E. Wilson, Vice-Chair, arrived at 5:39
Ellie Rigby, Secretary
Amazetta Anderson
Alicha Grubb
Bill Houck, Jr.
Jamaal Jackson
Cindy Pasternak
Sunni Purviance

Committee Members Absent

Guests

Mr. Wayne Leftwich – City Planner
Mr. Joe Cobb – Vice Mayor

Welcome to Members and Guests

Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 5:34pm and welcomed all members and guests.

Reading and Approval of Minutes

Mr. Houck moved to adopt the Agenda. Ms. Grubb seconded. Passed unanimously. Mr. Jackson made a motion to accept minutes as amended. Mr. Houck seconded. Passed unanimously.

Guest Presentations

Mr. Leftwich presented an update on the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Lewis asked if they were considering regulations to encourage affordable housing. Mr. Leftwich said that have discussed this but the plan won't be that detailed. Ms. Grubb asked about safety and equity in the expansions of areas that are heading into downtown (Grandin, innovation corridor at Carilion, etc). Mr. Leftwich indicated that they have considered a road diet for the Jefferson corridor and making it more pedestrian friendly. They have considered an urban loop. Ms. Grubb asked about the RNA role in neighborhood plans. Mr. Leftwich said that the next plan will be in the Belmont-Fallon area because that is the next Target Area. They are hoping to start planning for that in the summer with public meetings starting in the fall. They will let us know as the schedule for the rest of the neighborhood plans. Ms. Lewis suggested a boot camp for the RNA and Planning Commission to be on the same page. The Belmont-Fallon plan will be the first under this new comprehensive plan and will serve as the template for assembling the rest of the neighborhood plans.

Reports of Special Interest

- **City Updates – Tonya Pickett, Neighborhood Services**

Gainsboro Library Refresh Meeting on March 19th from 6-8:00pm. May is Neighborhood Month. Pass events along to Tonya so she can help advertise them. Tag Neighborhood Services as a co-host. The RNA purchased 16 grabbers, 20 adult vests and gloves, and 12 kids vests and gloves. These have been added to the Block Party kits. The Block Party kits are online. Leadership College starts a week from Thursday. There are 37 people enrolled (roughly double) – so Tonya will not be at any meetings on Thursdays for a while. They still haven't shared the grant awards because they are still in budget negotiations. The grants will go before council in April for approval.

- **Neighborhood Reports - All**

No Reports

Reports of Officers – Standing Committees

- **Neighborhood Awards Update – Purviance, Pasternak**

Ms. Lewis proposed that the neighborhood awards move to a different month because of City Council elections. The awards ceremony will stay in November. The discussion moved to the awards categories. There was discussion of the structure of the Neighborhood Awards dinner. There need to be 3 people to set up, 3 people to be there during the awards, and 3 people for clean up. Ms. Lewis suggested changing some of the awards categories and sharing ideas via email. We can order the awards now and wait to have them engraved. Ms. Purviance suggested having a matrix for assessing the awards nominations. The RNA should suggest that we start advertising the awards nominations in August and closing the nominations in October so that the schedule approaching the awards is not so compressed.

- **Neighborhood Development – Jackson, Purviance, Rigby, Grubb**

Ms. Grubb has people willing to help offer a free workshop for neighborhoods on establishing 501©3 status. It would be a 2 hour session. Ms. Lewis suggested that they also speak to how to maintain that status over the years. There were also suggestions for showing neighborhoods about Facebooking. Villa Heights is interested in starting a greater Northwest neighborhood association. It was suggested that the RNA host a conference for neighborhood organizations. It was suggested to have the conference in May as part of Neighborhood Month. The conference will be in June so that it doesn't conflict with all of the May activities.

Unfinished Business

New Business

- **Neighborhood Concerns/Issues**

Ms. Pickett passed out the Block Party Kit brochures. Ms. Grubb is going to look into offering a workshop for neighborhoods on establishing 501©3 status. Ms. Grubb will join this committee.

- **2020 NUSA Conference**

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Open Forum/Announcements

Renovation Celebration at Renovation Alliance this Friday, March 13th from 5:30-7:30.

Mr. Houck suggested we have a plan in place for the change in leadership. Ms. Grubb suggested that we have a “past chair” position for Ms. Lewis. Mr. Wilson and Ms. Rigby are rotating off the board in May.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 6:44pm.