

RNA Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2015
Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building
Room 159 (EOC) at 5:30 p.m.

Committee Members in Attendance

Johnny Williams, Vice-Chair
Brenda A. Allen
Antwyne Calloway
Chris H. Craft
Scott Horchler
Kenya Huffman
David Parr

Committee Members Absent

Amy Morgan, Chair
C.J. Meidlinger, Secretary
Barbara Evans

Guests

None

Welcome to Members and Guests

Vice-Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 5:31pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Reading and Approval of Minutes

As Secretary Meidlinger was absent and no August Meeting Minutes were provided, the August RNA Meeting Minutes were not approved.

Guest Presentations

None

Neighborhood Reports

Mr. Horchler noted that the recent Southeast Action Forum meeting included a discussion with the city's Economic Development Director, Wayne Bowers and a developer regarding a proposal to sell 3+ acres of Fallon Park located directly across the street from the Walmart grocery store for development as commercial use. Mr. Horchler noted the neighborhood organization was overwhelmingly opposed to the sale and stated the meeting opened up the need for a broader conversation to take place with the city for the RNA and neighborhoods in general as to when the proper time is to engage neighborhoods in these kinds of matters when public assets are being proposed for development and/or sale.

Ms. Huffman asked how City Council perceives the RNA noting the RNA should be a resource and asset that Council could come to in times when they need to determine a neighborhood's pulse on a particular

issue that might be under consideration and/or could become a possible controversy. Mr. Parr noted he didn't understand why a Council member would not be in attendance at every RNA meeting. Mr. Clement reminded the RNA that Secretary Meidlinger had been tasked by the RNA to write a letter to City Council inviting a conversation to take place between the Council and RNA to help build a relationship between one another as well as to enhance the RNA's relationship and role with City Council. Following a lively discussion, Mr. Horchler recommended that the city's Economic Director be invited to attend a future RNA meeting to help the RNA understand his approach to community development that in turn would help the RNA communicate this info to their respective neighborhoods. The other RNA members concurred. He also suggested the RNA members become familiar with their respective neighborhoods' plans. Mr. Clement noted he would invite Mr. Bowers to a future RNA meeting.

Mr. Calloway stated he planned on attending the next meeting of NNEO and Hurt Park Neighborhood Alliance.

Ms. Huffman noted she was unable to attend any neighborhood meetings lately as she had been under the weather. However, she stated she and her husband were trying to re-energize the Ridgewood Park Neighborhood Association as they had recently held a meeting at their home with several interested neighbors. Ms. Huffman noted she had spoken with the pastor of Ridgewood Baptist Church who had agreed to allow the group to host the neighborhood meetings there as they did once before so she was optimistic in the neighborhood group becoming reorganized.

Ms. Allen noted a developer had recently attended the Gainsboro SW Community Organization meeting to discuss a proposed 'tiny house' development to be located on city property behind the Big Brothers Big Sisters property off of Wells Avenue. She noted the developer stated he was approaching the group first before approaching the city to gauge their feelings about the idea noting that if the neighborhood group was not supportive of the project idea, he would not pursue it with the city. Ms. Allen noted the neighborhood group decided they would like to hear more about the project and would be arranging a neighborhood-wide community meeting to discuss further. Ms. Allen also noted that the Higher Education Center was currently holding meetings with Gainsboro neighborhood residents regarding the expansion of the Culinary Education building located on Henry Street. Ms. Allen noted the discussions were ongoing.

There were no other neighborhood reports provided.

Unfinished Business

A. Neighborhood Assignments

No discussion was held as all neighborhood groups are assigned.

B. Discussion Regarding RNA Sponsored Workshops

Vice-Chair Williams tabled discussion until the next RNA meeting due to the absence of Chair Morgan who was gathering information.

C. Discussion Regarding Work Session with City Council

Vice-Chair Williams tabled discussion until the next RNA meeting due to the absence of Secretary Meidlinger.

New Business

A. 2015 Neighborhood Partnership Award Program Review Committee

Mr. Clement provided a brief overview of the 2015 Neighborhood Partnership Award Program noting the RNA needed to form a committee to review the nominations once they were received. Mr. Calloway and Mr. Craft volunteered to serve on the Award Nomination Review Committee. Mr. Clement also urged the RNA to submit Award nominations for their respective neighborhoods' activities. Mr. Clement also noted the Susan Jennings representing the city's Arts Commission had approached him to include a new award category as part of the Neighborhood Partnership Awards program to include a Neighborhood Arts Award. Mr. Craft made a motion that the Neighborhood Arts Award be included in the 2015 Neighborhood Award Program to be presented by the Arts Commission Chair. Mr. Parr seconded. Hearing no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

B. FY2016-2017 Neighborhood Development Grant Program Review Committee

Mr. Clement provided a brief overview of the 2016 Neighborhood Development Grant Program noting the RNA needed to form a committee to review the current program and make suggested changes to the current program in preparation to moving forward with the new FY2016-2017 program. Mr. Calloway, Ms. Allen, and Co-Chair Williams volunteered to serve on the Neighborhood Development Grant Review Committee.

Open Forum/Announcements

Mr. Clement reviewed several events scheduled for the upcoming months and asked the RNA to share the information with their respective neighborhoods.

Adjournment

Vice-Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.