

Minutes from RNA Meeting on March 16, 2016
Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building
Room 159 (EOC) at 5:30 p.m.

Committee Members in Attendance

Antwyne Calloway, Vice-Chair
Chris H. Craft
Scott Horchler
Kenya Huffman
Johnny Williams

Committee Members Absent

Amy Morgan, Chair
Barbara Evans, Secretary (Ms. Evans term expired January 20, 2016; scheduled for reappointed for 3yr term on March 2016 agenda)
Brenda A. Allen
C.J. Meidlinger
David Parr

Guests

Chris Morrill, Roanoke City Manager
John Garland, Local Property Developer and Candidate for City Council

Welcome to Members and Guests

Vice Chair Calloway called the meeting to order at 5:37 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. Williams. Hearing no further discussion, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Guest Presentations

Vice Chair Calloway introduced Roanoke City Manager Chris Morrill. Mr. Morrill provided a brief overview of the hiring process for the new Police Chief and distributed a copy of the professional and personal qualities he was looking for in candidates for the position. He also asked the RNA for their input as to what other qualities should be added that were not listed. Mr. Morrill noted his plans were to involve the community as much as possible in the selection process.

Vice Chair Calloway introduced John Garland who is currently running for election to City Council. Mr. Garland provided some background on his personal and professional relationship with the City of Roanoke and explained why he has a desire to serve on Council.

Reports of Special Interest

A. Neighborhood Reports

Neighborhood reports were presented by all members present.

Mr. Horchler advised that two (2) key homes in the southeast neighborhood were recently purchased at the city's recent tax sale.

He stated that the properties were purchased by a nonprofit that had plans to rehab both for resale. He also noted the Southeast Action Forum was planning to initiate a conversation with the city to acquire the old fire Station located on Jamison Ave SE to be used as a community center.

Mr. Williams advised Melrose Towers currently has a dental and eye glass program in place funded with grant funds that will soon be expanded to include everyone in the city over 50 years of age beginning in May 2016.

Ms. Huffman noted Mayor Bowers had attended the Airlee Court Neighborhood Watch Association meeting to bid his farewell on July 1, 2016.

Reports of Officers – Standing Committees

None

Unfinished Business

A. Update Regarding April 2016 RNA Sponsored Workshops

Mr. Clement provided an update on the plans being made for the 2016 Neighborhood Month Conference for Roanoke Neighborhoods taking place at the Mt. View Community Center on Saturday April 30 from 8:30 - 1:30pm. The conference is being hosted by the Fairland Civic organization and Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates in partnership with Roanoke's Office of Neighborhood Services and VA Tech Department of Economic Development.

B. Update Regarding RNA Recognition for Roanoke Police Chief Chris Perkins's Retirement

Mr. Craft provided an update on his providing Roanoke Police Chief Chris Perkins' with a plaque on behalf of the RNA at the recent retirement event held for him on Friday, February 26, 2016.

New Business

A. Reappointment of Barbara Evans

Chair Calloway noted that Ms. Evans's term on the RNA expired on January 20, 2016 and that she had expressed an interest in being appointed for another term by the RNA. Mr. Craft motioned that Barbara Evans be appointed for another 3 years term to commence on March 16, 2016 until March 16, 2019. Ms. Huffman seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion, Ms. Evans reappointment by the RNA was unanimously approved.

Open Forum/Announcements

- Vice Chair Calloway pointed out some of the key dates of future neighborhood and city-related activities being planned that might be of interest to the RNA members.
- Mr. Williams thanked the RNA member for the sympathy card he had received from the RNA upon the passing of his grandmother.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Calloway adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.