

ARA Board Meeting Minutes – January 19, 2016

Members Present: Dean Anderson, Mollie Cardamone, Julie Guirguis, Jean Ruff, Rob Hoff, Carol Fournier, Bob Kimbrough
Guests: Paul and Maggie Cassidy, Tihda Vongkoth

Treasurer's Report: The minutes from the November 19, 2016 were reviewed and accepted. Julie stated the current balance in the association account was \$2,770.28 as of December 31, 2015. We have 45 paid members. This represents a new high in membership! Income and expenses: 2015 income was \$1805 (\$980 in dues, \$575 Brewer landscaping project member donations, \$250 Sarasota city grant). Expenses were \$1263.51. The ARA tax return was sent to the IRS today. She also filed the ARA annual report with the Division of Corporations.

Old Business:

Avondale history: Mollie and Carol have completed the final draft. A PDF will be distributed to the board and then will be emailed to all ARA members. It would cost \$500 for 100 color printed copies. They will contact the city neighborhood office to see if they would print the booklet. They will submit for a Sarasota city grant to help pay for this if they have all the information by the deadline (1.25.16). Copies will be available at the annual picnic.

Avondale newsletter, Winter edition is ready for distribution. Future topics were suggested and these include: updates on closing of Osprey Avenue.

Historical Avondale sign: Jean, Rob and Pam met with members of Sarasota city to look at multiple options for placing the additional, currently in storage. The location will be at the southwest corner of Irving at Osprey. The owner of that property has agreed to placement of the sign. Members of the board, Jean, Gary, Carol, and Dean did initial cleanup of the area. The board approved \$500 for a more substantial cleanup. The ARA board is planning a dedication in the spring. Rob and Jean will meet with Nancy Kelley from Sarasota to see who should be invited from the city. Rob will contact the press to potentially highlight the historical significance of Avondale. Dean will provide entertainment for the sign dedication.

Traffic Abatement in the neighborhood - Jean and Rob met with Sarasota city staff. The following actions are the result:

1. the city agreed to measure traffic and speed of vehicles over a three day period at two points on Lincoln Avenue and also on Brewer Street. The

City's contractor will install the traffic counter devices in February and we will let you know the results. The city agreed to move forward with measures to potentially increase compliance with stop signs in the neighborhood, for example, clear lines of demarcation on the street at stop signs, orange flag at some of the stop signs as second visual for drivers, and trim overgrowth of plants/trees which may obstruct signs. The city looked at data for traffic accidents at US 41 and Irving and they do not support placing a no left turn sign on Irving street.

2. Bahia Vista traffic signal eastbound delays: ARA is concerned about the backup and would like to length the "Green" signal, which will be exacerbated with the Osprey closed. The city forwarded the email from Rob to the City Engineer, Alex Davis-Shaw, and she asked the FDOT traffic signal engineer to look into this.

Gateway bank planting: It was completed and looks great, our Sarasota Summer should help fill it out! This funded by three Avondale homeowners on Brewer and the Gateway building owner. The planting includes one tree that was paid for by our ARA! Three other Avondale homeowners also contributed \$575 towards this effort!

Rob gave a brief update of the CCNA January meeting.

The Liftstation 87: closing of Osprey Avenue bridge for about one year is expected in April. Detailed information is available at <http://liftstation87.com> or by calling 941-356-8071.

Sarasota Crime: No reportable crimes in Avondale in December; six in the entire year (1 assault, 2 larceny, 1 vehicle theft, 2 larceny from vehicle). Dean is interested in learning about this organization and will attend the February meeting with Rob.

New Business:

Blue Avondale neighborhood sign, at Lincoln and Osprey: The city agreed to replace the posts within the next few months and clean the sign.

Sidewalks: Jean walked the entire neighborhood to gauge sidewalk issues. She sent her findings to the City and repairs started today. Thank you Jean!

Potential ARA website: Tihda volunteered to lead this effort.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 5 PM, 1932 Irving.