

## **ARA Board Meeting Minutes – February 23, 2016**

Members Present: Dean Anderson, Gary Bockhold, Mollie Cardamone, Carol Fournier, Julie Guirguis, Rob Hoff, Jean Ruff

Absent: Pam Baker, Bob Kimbrough

Guests: Teresa Carafelli, Paul Cassidy, Fran Melnick, Claudio Ruben, Tihda Vongkoth

The minutes from the January 19, 2016 were reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Julie stated the current balance in the association account was \$1,923.54 as of January 29, 2015. Expenses were \$846.74.

Old Business:

Avondale history booklets update: The City has printed approximately 100 copies at no cost. A PDF was distributed to the board and will be emailed to all ARA members in March. Nancy Kelly from The Neighborhood office was instrumental in helping. The Board unanimously approved a small gift for Nancy (up to \$50) which will be handled by Carol. Also, Carol will send a letter of recognition to Nancy's department letting them know what a great job she did. George Reid was instrumental in putting the document together. Hard copies will be distributed to each home in Avondale with a message from the Board.

Historical Avondale sign installation and dedication: The sign was placed in February at the southwest corner of Irving at Osprey. A substantial cleanup was done prior to the installation. The ARA board is planning a dedication on April 2nd at 11:30AM. A parade with music, just prior to the dedication, will be led by Dean and Tihda. Sparkling Cider will be procured by Julie. A planter on the existing pedestal will be done by Dean and Jean. Nancy Kelly, Larry Kelleher, Ruthmary Williams and others who have been instrumental will be invited. Publicity will be handled by Jean and Rob. Invitations to homeowners will be handed out with the historical booklets.

Neighborhood Traffic Issues: The city measured traffic and speed of vehicles over a three day period at two points on Lincoln Avenue and also on Brewer Street earlier in February. The results are not yet compiled.

Bahia Vista traffic signal eastbound delays: ARA is concerned about the backup and would like to lengthen the "Green" signal. Nancy Kelly sent a request to see the status of ARA concerns. Abatement of the traffic signal (ie, shortened Eastbound signal) was requested and approved in the past by ARA and Hudson Bayou to discourage use of this route, according to Fran Melnick.

There was concern voiced of the continued danger to people and animals crossing streets; cars (even residents of Avondale) often speed and don't stop at the intersections.

Energy Workshop: Sara Kane from Sarasota County presented and distributed a kit at the meeting last Sunday, February 21; the kits will be distributed at the ARA Picnic next

November. Rob will send out the presentation to ARA members and the link to the website.

Gateway Bank Plantings: Total cost of the project was \$10,266; JWM, the Management company for the Gateway Bank property, paid 25% of the cost and is responsible for ongoing landscaping. Three Avondale homeowners bordering the Bank property were responsible for the remaining \$7700; of which \$950 was provided by ARA and other Avondale homeowners.

Gateway Bank Building sprinkler system: Gary will talk to Management company to target watering to the plantings and not as much to the pavement; this should save them money and be more environmentally responsible. He will report back to the Board at the next meeting.

New Business:

Bylaws: Julie has word processed the ARA Bylaws from the scanned PDF file and the changes approved at the 2014 Business meeting. The document will be checked for accuracy by Rob. It will be posted on the ARA website which is in early development by Tihda.

Potential ARA website: Tihda presented her research on an ARA website. The development of the Avondale Residents Association website will allow for pertinent information to be posted, eg, Meetings and events, Bylaws, meeting minutes, Avondale News Bytes, and news and information. Two possible options for hosts were presented including Greengeeks and GoDaddy. A motion for Tihda to pursue development and securing a host and web address was approved unanimously. We will also work on the neighborhood logo for the website.

ARA Board Officer Election: A Board Committee met on February 5th and put forth a slate of candidates for Officers: Jean Ruff, President; Pam Baker, Vice President; Julie Guirguis, Treasurer; Rob Hoff, Secretary. There were no additional nominations from the ARA members at the meeting. The slate was approved unanimously.

It was decided that board meetings should be held on a consistent date every other month. The first Wednesday of the month every other month was agreed upon.

Rob showed a slideshow of Avondale which was well received.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 5 PM, 1932 Irving Street.