

ARA Board Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2015

Members Present: Pam Baker, Mollie Cardamone, Julie Guirguis, Jean Ruff, Rob Hoff, Carol Fournier, Bob Kimbrough

Guest: Gary Buckhold, Emme Queen, Paul and Maggie Cassidy, Fawn Ngo, Ph.D., Jessca Grosholz Ph.D., USF Sarasota-Manatee,

Members: The minutes from the September 22, 2015 were reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Julie stated the current balance in the association account was \$2,852.94 as of October 31, 2015. Collected \$740 for member dues; debit \$437.10 for picnic expenses. Submitted information to the City for the \$250 Community Grant.

Old Business:

Member list: Has been updated to include new members; Rob will send additional updates to Julie; Jean will contact members who have not paid for current fiscal year; next year Board will include "opt in" for ARA members to be included in a directory next year.

ARA Dec Newsletter - Emme will include these additional topics: CCNA meeting summary, Liftstation 87 update, Cinebistro opening/other updates of interest.

Report on picnic - The Board thanked Pam for chairing the very successful picnic; next year's meeting is set for Sunday Nov 6, 2016 at 3:30 PM. We will purchase more water next year since we ran out and also include names of the dishes to help in choosing food at the picnic.

Historical sign proposal - There is one additional sign in storage besides the one near the Gateway Bank; Bob Kimbrough evaluated locations closer to the northwest area of Avondale. He presented one preference on Lincoln near Yale and the owner of the property is amendable to placement there. He agreed to email the Board two other potential locations (eg, Lincoln and Osprey North side) so the Board can vote on these potential locations to submit three to the City for evaluation.

Survey on crime - Jessica Grosholz, Ph.D., Asst Professor of Criminology, USF Sarasota-Manatee explained she is working with the Sarasota Police Department and is requesting neighborhood participation to collect crime/drug information from both target and non-target neighborhoods using a survey. The survey was handed out at the meeting and electronic versions surveys should be available soon.

CCNA Report - Rob

The Liftstation 87 work will necessitate closing of Osprey Avenue bridge for about one year. This will occur starting in the next 1-2 months. There will be an attempt with signage to steer traffic onto US-41 and not onto residential streets. Detailed information is available at <http://liftstation87.com> or by calling 941-356-8071.

Bayfront 20:20 Update was presented by Virginia Haley, President of Visit Sarasota County and Drayton Saunders, chairman of the Visit Sarasota County Board of Directors. Discussed proceeding with Six Guiding Principles. The goal is to break ground by December 2017. One can link to Bayfront 20:20 website at <http://www.sarasotabayfront2020.com>.

Sarasota Crime: One problem which is increasing is car break-ins (93!)—approximately 90% of these cars are unlocked and also people are leaving valuables in plain view when locked. **Please lock your cars at all times!**

Traffic Abatement in the neighborhood - Several residents have expressed concerns about the cut through traffic in the Avondale neighborhood. Frequently cars do not stop at the stop signs and/or “roll” through the stop signs. Nancy Kelly indicated that the traffic is going to be monitored in our neighborhood this Winter. Board members will meet with City in early December to discuss this further.

Update on Gateway planting - Gary stated the cost is about \$10,000 now (down from \$12,000); work may start as soon as next week and plantings in 2 weeks; Julie stated ARA received \$200 from a resident to help with the costs. The Board voted to donate \$383.40 for one fishtail palm near Bahia Vista and Brewer streets since these plantings should benefit our neighborhood by creating an improved sound and visual barrier between Avondale and local businesses and US-41.

New Business:

Potential Grant Request (pamphlet about Avondale history): To be discussed at the next meeting by Mollie and Carol.

The next meeting will be scheduled in January. The meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.