

ARA Board Meeting Minutes

3/3/20

Present were Dean Anderson, Pam Baker, Mollie Cardamone, Carol Fournier, Julie Guirguis, Connie Riesenbeck, Georgia Salaverri, Jodie Vashistha.

Guests in attendance: Iliana Perez and Franc Abide from FPL, Doug Jeffcoat, Director of Sarasota Public Works, Nancy Kelly, Sarasota Neighborhood Planner
Avondale residents: Tihda Vongkoth, Paul Cassidy

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 2/4/20 ARA Board meeting.
- Treasurer's Report: Julie announced the treasury balance is \$3,215.51, and the ARA membership is presently at 47 (out of 75 residences). Julie recently filed our tax return and annual report. Julie is resigning from our Board as of June, 2020. She was thanked for an outstanding job. She will be replaced by Jodie Vashistha as Treasurer.
- Announcements:

CCNA: Jodie and Rob will attend the monthly CCNA meeting on March 7. After that, Rob will step down his duties of attending CCNA meetings and Jodie will join Dean for all future meetings.

The next ARA Board meeting will take place on 4/7/20, 5:30-6:30pm (1932 Irving St.).

The Annual Spring Social will be held on Friday, April 24, at the home of Lisa Morris.

Old Business

Sarasota Public Works director, Doug Jeffcoat and our guests from FPL led a discussion on pedestrian street lighting with various options and payment approaches. Two possible choices to accomplish our goal of improved lighting would be to work with the city, putting forth a Capital Improvement Project that would have to be agreed upon by the city commissioners. Since Avondale has had pedestrian lighting many years ago, and were removed by the city, it was suggested that we pursue having this approved as a "replacement". Proof of these lights are needed to show the commissioners and Mollie, Carol, and Dean will look into trying to find these. Our CIP would need to be submitted by the end of March.

Other rationale for pedestrian lighting in Avondale include improved safety and security, maintaining the historic look of the neighborhood, and improved property values.

Avondale could also work directly with FPL to provide the engineering study, materials, labor, and ongoing maintenance. However, this could be problematic if all residents do not agree to raise their electric bill for this project.

Dean discussed Avondale Infrastructure proposal as a Capital Improvement project. As a compromise to replacing all curbs and sidewalks, Doug Jeffcoat will identify specific spots of curbs to replace and ramps which require upgrading to meet Disability Act compliance. Paul Cassidy discussed his concern of the foot paths impacted by tree roots and hazard.

New Business

- Dean discussed inviting political candidates to future BOD meetings and/or social events for a candidate forum, including candidates speaking on their positions as well as questions by the residents. Candidates for the city commission have been approaching us to visit Avondale. Mollie and Carol have attended candidate informal gatherings in the past, which have been well received. Dean said that he will organize this “Candidates Forum”.
- Pam gave the election results for our recent Annual ARA Business meeting. The following results have been approved: President - Dean, Vice President - Pam, Secretaries - Rob and Carol, Treasurer - Jodie.
- Since Julie will be retiring from the board, there will be an opening for an additional board member. Miguel Cruz was suggested as a new board member and Dean was asked to approach him for consideration.
- Georgia will continue her excellent work as Editor of our newsletter.
- Dean discussed our annual Spring Social and the music will be provided by the Michael Ross Trio will entertain us. Connie is in charge of the menu with many excellent ideas being considered.
- Jodie called to our attention the deterioration of our ARA neighborhood signs. She recommended that we replace them prior to the Spring Social. Georgia and Carol agreed to research this, with information regarding purchasing them coming from Tihda Vongkoth.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm