

ARA Board Meeting Minutes 7/7/20

Attending: Dean Anderson, Mollie Cardamone, Julie Guirguis, Pam Baker, Rob Hoff, Georgia Salaverri, Connie Riesenbeck, Jodie Vashistha, Carol Fournier. Guests: Tihda Vongkoth, Medora Sheehan

The minutes of the 6/2/20 ARA Board meeting were approved.

Secretary Report: Dean asked Rob to email members to remind them of our “Candidates Forum” that is now available on avondalesarasota.org website. Rob will send out around August 1, since the elections are on 8/18/20. Also discussed was the letter crafted by Dean inviting non-members to join the ARA. Medora Sheehan offered to provide the addresses of the non-members (Rob will send a copy of the latest member directory to Medora and after she provides the addresses, Rob will mail the invite letter.

Treasurer’s Report: Julie reported a treasury balance of \$3,035.92, reflecting no change from the previous month. This was Julie’s last meeting. She was thanked (and toasted!) for her excellent contributions as a Board member and Treasurer. Julie will forward all Treasurer’s files and information to Jodie (our new Treasurer).

Announcements: Our next ARA board meeting will be held on 9/1/20, 5-6pm (via Zoom). The 11/1/20, 3-5pm annual ARA picnic will be (for now...) a “bring your own food, plates, drinks, etc.” due to the pandemic. Pam has ordered tables and chairs from the City. The Annual ARA Spring Social is scheduled April 9, 2021, 7-10pm at the home of Lisa Morris. Connie will discuss possible catering of this event as the date approaches.

Old Business:

- *ARA “Candidates Forum”:* The recent ARA city commissioner’s (District 2) “Candidates Forum” received positive feedback from everyone and was proven to be a very informative experience for our residents. Tihda has posted it on avondalesarasota.org and Rob will remind residents (via an email) of it prior to August 18 election, then remove it.
- *Sea Wall repair @ Lincoln Park:* Dean reported that he has been in contact with Robert Heggan (Public Works), who has reported that he has received the final FDT permit. Funding is in place for bid process, with construction scheduled to begin this October (’20).
- *Lift Station 87:* Jodie reports that there are four vertical cracks, top to bottom, on her property’s (1810 Lincoln Rd.) exterior wall. Dean reported and sent pictures of this to Tony Centurione, the LS87 Project Manager, the city’s neighborhood coordinator, Nancy Kelly, and our District 2 representative, and Liz Alpert, City Commissioner. Tony

has reported back that the city will repair anything regarding this, or, any other issues that arise from the construction.

- *Meals On Wheels:* Mollie informed us the response for this was overwhelming, with \$1,225 in cash donations and many food contributions. Due to its success, another donation drive will be considered again this coming Fall. Mollie was thanked for coordinating this project, collecting, and delivering the food items. In addition, Mollie's husband, Ron, and Vince Salaverri assisted with the delivery of the donations.
- *New Sign on Lincoln Drive and Osprey Avenue.* A motion was made by Pam and seconded by Mollie to approve Dean to write the city neighborhood grant (due 8/31), obtain a consensus on the style/information for the sign (via the board), and obtaining the necessary three quotes for the cost of the sign. The city will match 50% of the cost of this sign. Georgia offered a suggested sign company and Dean will contact Nancy Kelly to get some sign companies that the city has used in the past. Everyone agreed that it would be nice to include the Avondale "Lion Head" logo on the sign.
- Jodie brought up the concern of excessive speeding on Osprey Avenue. This subject was tabled for future discussion.

New Business:

- *ARA Newsletter:* The board discussed the Fall Newsletter, which typically is published after the annual picnic for picnic pictures and an article. Medora and Carol offered to help Georgia with various newsletter efforts. They will meet to discuss suggestions.
- *ARA New Membership Drive Letter:* Dean sent a first draft for non-members for the board's perusal. We discussed various dues payment enhancement, though all agreed that we should offer membership now (@ \$50.00, then, free membership for the next year (at the picnic, 11/1/20 - 11/1/21).
- Medora suggested that we consider asking the city to make a Dog Park located @ Lakewood Park (Mound/Rt. 41 and Osprey). Dean will be pursue this concept with the City and the Hudson Bayou community.
- A "Welcome Basket" for new residents was discussed. Appropriate items could include a welcome letter from the ARA President (Dean will send a draft of this to the board), a copy of the Avondale history (Dean will get some copies of this to Medora), and a possible gift of wine, and baguette (for now, we should probably not include food items due to the pandemic). Medora, Connie, and Georgia will coordinate this concept and will also reach out to Sarah Massey, editor of "Southside Village" magazine, who has offered to include items from various businesses in Southside Village. Georgia agreed to contact Sarah regarding this aspect of the basket. Medora has asked anyone to donate any baskets for this endeavor. Should she need to, she can purchase these and the ARA can reimburse her for them.