

RPIA General Meeting Minutes – November 16, 2020

The general meeting of the Ryan Place Improvement Association was held via Zoom on Monday evening, November 16, with President Tim Keith presiding and Sarah Geer as secretary. A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

Board Members in Attendance: Tim Keith (President), Ryan Scharar (Vice President), Sarah Geer (Secretary), Jen O’Connell (Treasurer), Douglas Cooper (Infrastructure), Chris Ebert (Historic Resource), Jake Neal (Membership), Jason Jones (Public Safety), Jeff Schroeder (Activities), Kipp Baker (Communication), Barbara Forshey (Willing Ave), Chris Gee (5th Ave), Josh Gardner (6th Ave), Kendall Wells (College Ave), Ryan O’Connell (Ryan Place Drive)

Others present included: Isiah Garner, Cade Lovelace, John Belknap, Summer Jones, Alyssa Schroeder, Jenny Lovelace, Addison Conley (new resident on 6th Ave), Cindy Belknap, Mrs. Scharar, Kari Keith, Allison Gee

Special Reports

- NPO Report (Isiah Garner)
 - Officer Garner encourages anyone interested in participating in Citizens on Patrol to connect with him.
 - Officer Garner is working to get access/approval to connect with the neighborhood via NextDoor.
 - Crime has dropped tremendously since last month
 - There was an assault at Daggett MS in the schoolyard – all those involved in the incident were juveniles, and it took place in the early evening hours.
 - There have been three burglaries in the last month (1 vehicular theft, 1 theft from property)
 - Resident Question: Any details/information on a possible addition of cameras to the neighborhood?
 - Residents can register their existing cameras with the city, and in some areas there are pole cameras but Officer Garner wasn’t sure of exact locations.
 - The city is consistently increasing city-owned cameras, but trying to focus on high-crime areas first.
 - Jason Jones shared that the safety committee was told there were two additional cameras that went up in Ryan Place over the summer.
 - Resident Question: any update on Adams homicide?
 - It’s an ongoing investigation so Officer Garner isn’t able to share much but the incident is believed to be a domestic issue with no ramifications for the greater neighborhood.
- CCRP Update
 - This year’s modified event is known as “Festive 5th Avenue.” It will be entirely outdoors with the opportunity for residents/community members to do a self-guided walking tour to view historical home signs. There will be food trucks near the intersection of 5th Ave and Elizabeth Blvd. The official event is Saturday, December 5th from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

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- Resident Question: do we anticipate that people might show up expecting the usual tour? Do we need any explanatory materials about the modifications?
 - Festive 5th Avenue is being promoted primarily in Ryan Place and Fairmount. CCRP will work on signage at St. John’s Church in case anyone shows up there.
 - Kipp shared that the website has been updated with the current event status. He can make announcement via Facebook as well. The CCRP Facebook page has already been updated.
- Jeff Schroeder shared an update from Lori Gallagher in Fairmount: Festivus (the Fairmount holiday event including a lights tour) will be held on Dec. 12 and participants will drive individually in personal vehicles this year. Lori wanted to know if RPIA wanted to be involved.
 - Tim recommended passing on official involvement but potentially helping to promote to RP residents.
- Nominations Committee Update
 - On behalf of the Nominations Committee, Tim reminded the board that the following directors are all interested to return for an additional term:
 - President – Tim Keith
 - Historic Resource – Chris Ebert
 - Finance – Jen O’Connell
 - Membership – Jake Neal
 - Activities – Jeff Schroeder
 - **Sarah Geer moved to approve the slate of returning directors as shared by Tim, Jake Neal seconded. Motion passes.**
 - Tim noted that we expect a vacancy shortly in the Director of Communications position, and the committee is working diligently to identify a replacement to share with the board at our January meeting.
 - Resident Question: what about the street director positions that are up for election this year? On behalf of the committee, Tim requested that they have the opportunity to take a closer look at opportunities to fill those positions, and stated that the committee will continue its efforts to that end.

Directors’ Reports

- President
 - Ryan Place Service Award – Tim is working with Terri West on this project.
- VP – nothing to report
- Secretary
 - Sarah presented the minutes from the September board meeting and asked for any edits/changes.
 - **Josh Gardner moved to approve the September minutes as shared. Jake Neal seconded. Motion passed.**

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- Sarah attended a meeting of the Fort Worth City Engagement Office on behalf of RPIA. The CEO team provided general updates on city resources, including informational workshops/training for neighborhood associations. The CEO office is encouraging neighborhood associations to become members of Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA). Fort Worth is hosting the 2021 NUSA conference. Sarah will circulate some related materials among board members.
- Treasurer
 - Jen reported that she issued a check to renew our commercial liability insurance.
 - So far this year, RPIA has taken in ~\$17K and spent \$21K. Jen shared that while we are running a deficit we have sufficient unallocated funds in the bank to manage it for the short term.
 - For community engagement projects, Jen has issued checks to Daggett Middle School and Daggett Montessori. Daggett Elementary is interested in using funds for their annual coat drive.
 - Jen will work with Tim to coordinate the annual budget meeting to draft a 2021 budget for consideration by the board in January.
- Membership
 - Jake reported that socially distanced welcome visits continue and the team is prepared for additional 5-10 visits over the holidays.
- Communications
 - Candlesticks for sale (~50), \$25 apiece for residents, \$35 for non-residents
 - Would like to get newsletter out a little early this cycle (end of Nov, v. beginning of Dec)
 - Working on updates/corrections on website/newsletter, incl NPO contact info
 - Constant Contact still just under 500
 - Needs to do directory updates – make sure to include welcome form info
- Activities
 - Jeff has not heard back from Coyote Drive-In re: a potential event. He suggested that if Festive 5th Ave goes well, we may consider replicating a similar walking tour-style activity later in spring.
- Historic Resource
 - Chris expressed a desire to re-energize historic overlay efforts. He suggested possibly re-establishing a zoning committee and taking the pulse of residents on the issue.
 - Addison Conley noted that he formerly served as a city planner in the zoning department in Fort Worth. He suggested inviting Historic Preservation staff to give a presentation. There seemed to be interest in scheduling a presentation for the spring.
- Public Safety
 - Jason provided an update from the safety task force/committee:
 - They are researching text notification services to supplement Constant Contact/Facebook for neighborhood alerts. Board members encouraged Jason to consider protocols involved with a centralized messaging platform (i.e. who would approve the language?). It was noted that RPIA is not the police or an official media outlet so we need to carefully consider how we vet and share information.

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- The task force is looking into options re: the frequency/delivery format for crime statistics from the NPO/FWPD.
- Anyone interested in joining committee should reach out to Jason directly.
- Infrastructure
 - Douglas noted that 5-Star was out working on the chicanes today. The new plants need watering every other day over the next week. Sarah and Jeff offered to help.
 - Douglas is continuing to work on correcting light outages in the neighborhood.

Other Discussion

- Fire Truck Update
 - John Belknap shared that we haven't had to pay for storage to-date but the museum is full and will have to start charging for storage as of Jan 1, 2021. The cost would be \$435/quarter.
 - Resident Question: have we made any progress finding nearby storage near Ryan Place? The short answer is no. Board members discussed additional ideas to reach out to (Carter's coffee, James Avenue service center with old city vehicles, AAA Glass Facility, etc.). We need secure, covered/enclosed parking within a couple miles of the neighborhood. Ryan Scharar offered to help with storage research and other scenario planning for the fire truck.
 - Tim recommends we could pay the museum fee for 1-2 quarters but that we would need to find closer and cheaper storage until we figure out what's going with additional restoration or other options.
 - Resident Question: could we sell or donate the fire truck? We have already sunk about \$10,000 into the mechanical restoration. We'd probably get \$2,000-\$4,000 on the market for it. We could likely donate to the museum.
 - John reminded the board that it will cost several hundred dollars to transport it, and that we may want to get a specific quote for transport.
 - Tim raised the question of what the total/ongoing investment we could handle, thinking of storage, maintenance, etc. He recommended estimating a yearly budget.
 - Resident Question: What is Jen's opinion of the \$435 cost for one quarter of storage? Jen felt it was a reasonable amount of money given our available funds.
 - **Sarah Geer moves to approve \$435 for museum storage in Q1 2021. Chris Ebert seconded. Motion passed.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Geer
Secretary