

## RPIA Board Meeting Minutes – March 20, 2023

The regular board meeting of the Ryan Place Improvement Association was held in Mitchell Hall Parlor at St. John's Church on Monday evening, March 20, 2023, with President Chris Gee presiding and Cindy Pustejovsky Belknap as secretary. A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M.

Board Members in Attendance – Chris Gee, President; Cade Lovelace, Vice-President; Blake Villa, Treasurer; Cindy Pustejovsky Belknap, Secretary; Sarah Geer, Director of Membership; Ryan Terry, Director of Communication; Sarah Rucker, Director of Activities; Sean Crotty, Director of Historic Resource; Jason Jones, Director of Public Safety; Douglas Cooper, Director of Infrastructure; Taylor Drake, 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. St. Director; John Belknap, 8<sup>th</sup>/James/Stanley St. Director; Casey Creager, Alston/Lipscomb/Page St. Director; Brian Holland, Elizabeth Blvd. St. Director; Elizabeth Milstein, Ryan Ave. St. Director; Rich Johnston, Ryan Place Dr. St. Director; Aaron Ballard, Willing Ave. St. Director.

Others present included Jennifer O'Connell, Chair of the Home Tour Committee; Natalie Moore, Website Admin; Officer Jennifer Bell.

Neighborhood Patrol Officer Report – Officer Jennifer Bell recapped challenges during spring break and she reminded all to lock car doors. She was made aware of graffiti and tagging occurring in the alley behind Texaco and the high number of stop sign runners throughout the neighborhood, especially in the southwest corner.

President Report – President Chris Gee reported on the following:

- a. Director of Activities Sarah Rucker, Director Brian Holland, and President Gee will meet with Fairmount representatives on March 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Softball game between the two neighborhoods.
- b. President Gee met with Andy Duefel, chair of the Community Service Committee, and together they set a goal of Ryan Place participating in at least two social service events per year.
- c. The Triangle Park Committee will meet with the City Parks Department and Councilwoman Elizabeth Beck on Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup> to begin discussing design ideas and options.
- d. The Fire Station Skate Park grand opening is April 29<sup>th</sup> from 11am - 5:00pm.
- e. Pockets of RP are currently zoned as industrial and for duplexes creating the risk for "stealth-dorm" type builds, therefore a City Council rezoning project has been initiated to right-size the neighborhood to ensure zoning is appropriate throughout. Anyone affected by a zone change would receive notice and the change would go through the normal zone change request process. Councilwoman Beck wants to schedule a public meeting to discuss the situation and the process, likely to be held in late May.

Vice President Report – V.P. Cade Lovelace reported on the following:

- a. The RPIA Board Meeting scheduled for Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> will begin at 6pm to accommodate a forum for City Council District 9 candidates scheduled for that same day at 7pm here at St. John's. The forum will be one hour in length consisting of introductions, questions specifically related to RP, then open Q&A.
- b. Zoning case ZC-23-027 to change 3005 and 3011 Stanley Ave (Block 11, Lots 22 and 23) from "A-5" to "E" has been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. President Gee has resent RPIA's letter of opposition to Zoning Commission and City Councilwoman Elizabeth Beck.

Secretary Report – Secretary Belknap referred to her February 27, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes and reminded board members to review the minutes prior to the meeting and come prepared with corrections.

**Director Sarah Geer moved to approve the February 27, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes. Motion passed.**

Treasurer Report – Treasurer Blake Villa referred to his Financial Report which listed revenue and expenses as of March 17<sup>th</sup>. He is going to the bank this week to become an authorized signatory on the RPIA account.

Activities Report – Director of Activities Sarah Rucker listed upcoming events taking place in RP: Cowtown Cleanup on March 25<sup>th</sup>; Easter Egg Hunt on April 8<sup>th</sup>; Memorial Day Croquet Tournament and Block Party on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

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Membership Report – Director of Membership Sarah Geer reminded all of the neighborhood mixer rescheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup> from 5pm – 7pm at Winehaus (previous date of March 2<sup>nd</sup> was cancelled due to inclement weather). New welcome cards have been created and a new donor is contributing to welcome totes.

Communication Report – Director of Communications Ryan Terry introduced neighbor Natalie Moore who volunteered to be the new webmaster for the RPIA website. Director Terry reminded all the deadline for submissions for the April newsletter is Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. President Gee emailed a reminder to contributors as well.

Historic Resource Report – Director of Historic Resource Sean Crotty is seeking the text from the yard signs placed in front of houses during the home tour so that he may include it in the database of RP homes he is building. He was informed the signs are stored in various locations (ex. RP storage unit, the house of the sign), and that it may be easier to obtain the file with the text that was used to make the signs.

Infrastructure Report – Director of Infrastructure Douglas Cooper reported on the following:

- a. An anonymous donor has offered to pay for the re-landscaping of the Elizabeth Blvd. gate area, therefore the call for bids is no longer necessary. The cost for a new landscaping design is approximately \$330.

**Director Sarah Geer moved to spend up to \$330 on a landscaping re-design of the Elizabeth Blvd gate area. Motion passed.**

- b. Bids came in for the Cantey St. chicanes. The need to retain vertical items in the chicanes was expressed as visual cues for drivers. Cantey St. is on the 2023/2024 street restriping project list which will include adding reflectors.
- c. Director Cooper and President Gee will meet with the City Parks Department Project Manager on March 21<sup>st</sup> regarding the placement of the new pavilion at Daggett Park. The conversation will include how the installation of the pavilion will sync with the planned playground improvements.
- d. Discussion was had about the poor condition of the field at Daggett Park (holes, fire ants, etc.) and inquiring minds want to know who is ultimately responsible for maintenance and can the condition be improved for the safety of the school children and the community who uses this field for various events.
- e. A volunteer is still needed to coordinate the City's Neighborhood Tree Planting Program for RP.

Candlelight Christmas in Ryan Place Report – Home Tour Chair Jennifer O'Connell reported that three homes have been confirmed for the 2023 home tour, and \$8,000 committed in sponsorships.

Street Director Reports – Ryan Place Dr. Street Director Rich Johnston informed all that on May 27<sup>th</sup> W. Robert will be blocked off between 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Ryan Place Dr. for a wedding celebration.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Pustejovsky Belknap  
Secretary