

RAA Neighborhood Meeting
Tuesday, November 21, 2023
Winship House

Board Members Present: Joan Kelchner, Bill Scheel, Claire Nelson, Mike Kosse, Braxton Hynes

Board Members Absent:

Community Members Present: Chase Kassel, Kate Kunberger, Dan Nelson, Kevin Haasarud, Dianne Barker, Aaron Thompson, Ryan Boyd, Rachel Oehlerking, Carol Finney, Joe Pfeiff, Zola Zermeno, Patricia Zermeno

18 total present

1. Joan called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM
 - a. Joan stated that Kate and Chase resigned from the Board. We have 2 people who are interested in joining the board. Carol Finney introduced herself, she lives in Portland Place, has lived here since 2011. Is retired and is happy to help out until the formal elections. Rachel Ohlerking lives at Roosevelt Square, works at a state agency, and is happy to get involved and help out.
 - b. Mike moved to appoint Rachel and Carol to board, Braxton seconded. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.
 - c. Board introductions.
2. Upcoming elections -- reminder to pay annual dues by the end of Jan. general meeting. Dues must be paid to vote, but also to run for open slots on our RAA board. Dues are \$10.00 per person per year.
3. Last meeting's minutes
 - a. Bill made a motion to approve the October community meeting minutes. Rachel seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Presentation, discussion of Milum Textile property at 7th Ave. and Van Buren
 - a. Joan gave an overview of the Milum Textile industry. It's a historic site that we want to save. RAA was founded on the idea of saving historic buildings. Ryan Boyd gave an update that there is a vote that is coming up that is hostile to the owners on

whether or not the site is going to be demolished altogether. He will keep the group updated.

5. Dec. meeting / social event -- Luminarias!
 - a. Claire explained that we are doing the longstanding tradition of lighting luminarias on the 23rd and 24th this year. We're coordinating sending out kits so people can put together their own through the blockwatch captains. We'll be putting those kits together and we're looking for volunteers to help assemble those kits. Joan stated that instead of having a December meeting for RAA, we'll be having a social event on the 19th. There will be sand delivered to us on the vacant lot. There will be hot chocolate and cookies. It will be family and dog friendly.
6. Community announcements, new business.
 - a. Joe stated that Hance Park is quickly becoming a "hangout" for homeless population, have moved into the republic garden, have set up a camp. Feels it's becoming inhospitable. Has noticed defecation. Joan stated that she would let the community action officers know. Bill asked Marissa what the parks department is doing to help. Marissa said that they did get a new ranger to come in, he's going to making the rounds, introducing himself. He's going through all urban parks so she believes the situation will be improving. Joan stated that she was glad that Parks Dept Staff have been attending the community meetings because it helps with communication.
 - b. Kate mentioned that Zola Zermeno had organized to have a family sponsorship through St. Vincent de Paul. Zola and Patricia expanded on the family - it's 1 mom and 10 kids. Signing up is really easy, they are using SignUp Genius. She is asking that neighbors sign up for even just 1 item. You can drop the items off at their house, 518 W Lynwood.
 - c. Kate announced that on Sunday December 17th, neighbors are hosting an annual Christmas lights bike ride. Decorate bikes. There will be a Facebook event created as we get closer and bike lights etc provided.
 - d. Bill shared that the latest RAA Newsletter is ready and is looking for folks to help distribute them.

- e. Mike shared that we are still looking for blockwatch captains particularly in the south side of the neighborhood. Joan shared that at the Blockwatch event.
- f. Diane Barker shared that at 3rd ave and Roosevelt, a woman in a white sedan electric vehicle made a left hand turn with a girl in the crosswalk. Bad drivers in the neighborhood.
- g. Joan adjourned the meeting at 6:51 PM

Signed,

Braxton Hynes
RAA Secretary