

Roosevelt Action Association General Meeting, August 14, 2023

RAA General Meeting

August 14, 2023, 6pm at the Winship House

Board Present: Joan Kelchner, President; Braxton Hynes, Secretary; Chase Kassel, Treasurer; Mike Kosse Vice President; Kate Koneberger, Bill Scheel

Board Absent: Claire

Community Members Present: Wesley Shealey, Nicholas Yale, Jeffrey Ferns, Luann Hebel, Pat Powers, Christine Lindley, Chris Esparza, Joe Pfeiff, Matt Seaman, Lois Francis, Mark Francis, Anna Flaaten, Minea Moore, Rick Naimark

Agenda

1. Call to Order.....6:13 PM
2. Approval of minutes, prior meeting June.....2 min
 - a. Kate moved to approve minutes. Chase seconded. Motion carried.
3. Treasury Report.....2 min
 - a. Included in appendix.
4. Community Police Office Report.....5 min
 - a. Ofc. Ben Harris - North of i-10 for Roosevelt.
 - i. From May until today, there has been a decent rise in trespassing, not residential burglaries (only 1 in the last 3 months, very good). 6 in the last 3 months, 4 resulted in an officer report. 1502 n central. Mostly not residential. Along with trespassing calls for service, there's been an increase in reporting suspicious behaviors. Lot of people are capturing things on their Ring cameras and calling it into the police which is a good thing. Couple of front porch, another one that was a different person in a backyard that was reported. One per week and then 3 in one week of suspicious person calls for service. Some of these increases are coming from people actually noticing stuff in the neighborhood - people being more aware and vigilant. In contrast, Willo neighborhood 900 some homes, would expect to see maybe 3 suspicious person calls per week. Joan asked about a group home near her where 2 cars were keyed and a side mirror knocked off. Joan recommended they call a non-emergency number.
 - ii. Near the dog park, a man was found shot. There was a witness to the shooting and a suspect ran off. Able to coordinate a fairly quick response. Suspect was apprehended and tried to commit suicide while still in

custody. Booked for attempted 1st degree murder. Victim was shot in the head but is ok.

1. Only call Ben when you're seeing repeated suspicious activity that you don't need a police report for. Or you can send an email.

a. 911 for violent crimes in progress

b. Non emergency number for reporting suspicious behavior

iii. Joan circulated sex offender notifications

b. Ofc. Jeff Howell South Roosevelt

i. Dealing with the Zone. Not sure when the next clean up is going to be either next week or week after. Don't think we've hit the meat of it yet. Downtown the majority of calls are homeless related. Lots of calls about bar violence and stolen vehicles, up 400%. As of today there's a sex offender who's in the neighborhood. He's an absconder from New York, indecent exposure and sexual indecency. Currently in custody on a burglary.

5. Subcommittee Updates

a. Development..... 5 min

i. Ben Patton will give an update next month which includes a save on a historic house. Kate shared that we were going to have an update on Milum Textiles but the project fell through. We heard that there was something in pre development at 1502 N. Central. Joan put a call in to Aaron Kane. Bill Scheel said that the X Roosevelt is back in business and should be breaking ground in the next couple weeks.

ii. ASTRA project that we opposed the GPLET for was approved. Pat shared that she feels very disheartened and discouraged by how our representative responded and effectively dismissed our concerns.

iii. Rick shared that we still have an opportunity to impact the street design issues that we pointed out. Fire department spoke at the city council meeting saying that they don't need an extra lane. Unless somebody intervenes, the streets department is going to design a street that we don't want.

b. Vacant Lot.....5 min

i. Joan has concerns, based on the ASTRA, that a developer could talk the city into selling that lot and build a monstrous development on it. The subcommittee met last week and is working to distill the numerous ideas that have been discussed over the past couple months into a solid few that can be shared. Committee will meet on a monthly basis to work on updates.

c. Traffic.....5 min

i. Main issues are 7th and Lynwood traffic, 5th ave and Latham parking issue. Still waiting on Latham to decide what to do on the parking issue. Request was made for greater South Roosevelt participation in the committee. Next meeting is at 5 at the SE corner of Lynwood and 5th Ave at Lois and Mark Francis's house - SE corner 5th Ave and Lynwood.

- d. Historic Preservation...5 min
 - i. No current demo applications. Active demo permit for farmers market parking lot. On June 28th they approved the DeMund House to construct a 2 story garage and studio. Westward Ho selective demo - still low income and mostly senior.
 - ii. Rick mentioned that 2 houses that are not in our neighborhood that will likely be demo'd in the next few years but are available for relocation if anyone has a lot they'd like a historic home on.
- 6. Fall Event..... 20 min
 - a. Kate shared about Halloween and Fall block watch events events. Chris will share about all the Hance Park events that will be coming up (Noche, Final Four, Fuego Friday, Mayor Arts Awards etc). When the park is activated, a lot of the negative activity leaves. Rick mentioned that the conservancy is working with the parks department on a new master calendar database that will be very accessible. I'm sure everyone has noticed the tremendous loss of plant lives in the park. Some of the plant life in the garden, because it was planted so recently, is still under warranty, some didn't last the summer because it was too new, and they're working on a replacement plan for it.
- 7. Funding Suggestions..... 20 min
 - a. We had several funding suggestions at our last board meeting - the home tour is difficult because it's difficult to get enough people to open up their homes. Mike and Joan are going to work on another idea called Restaurant Week. You can go in and order a dinner and they'll donate a certain amount. Just starting on that idea - not a home tour but something we think we can do maybe in the next few months. Kate mentioned that we're different from the other historic neighborhoods so a thought was to do a home tour that includes the penthouses etc in the high rises in the neighborhood. Chris Esparza suggested a food truck tour.
- 8. Newsletter
 - a. We're doing a Fall Newsletter - Kate and Bill are handling it. Opening it up to the community for content - please submit or reach out by October 1st. Joan said giving the history of a historic building would be cool.
- 9. New Business/Community Comments.... 5 min
- 10. Adjourned at 7:32 PM

Appendix

Treasurer's Report

The balance of our Chase Bank account was **\$38,421.67.** at the time of our last RAA meeting on June 20, 2023.

In the past two month, the following deposits were made into our account:

- \$.61 in interest
- \$128.84 in block grant reimbursements
- \$30.00 in membership

The following expenses were incurred:

- \$396.57 in Computer/Software Expenses, including \$374.87 switching from a monthly to annual Quickbooks subscription.
- \$19.65 in fees.
- \$1,570.00 to Philadelphia Insurance Co. for annual insurance renewal.

The current balance of our Chase Bank accounts, as of August 14, 2023, is **\$36,594.90.**

The difference in balance from last month is **-\$1,826.77.**