

River North Residents Association
Minutes of the Annual Meeting and Election of 2008

1. The Annual Meeting and Election of the River North Residents Association was called to order at 7:05 p.m. on July 16, 2008 at Blueprint, 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Chicago.
 - a. Brian Israel, President, opened the meeting, thanked our host, Paul Favoretto, Manager of Blueprint, introduced the Executive Committee members and guest presenters: Alderman Brendan Reilly, CPD Officer David Eshoo, Paul Zalmezak of the DPD and Kyle Curry of Rock for Kids.
 - b. Brian welcomed new members 21 W. Chestnut, 400 N. LaSalle and The Sterling.
 - c. The minutes were presented from the last quarterly meeting. Brian moved to accept the minutes. Mike Riordan seconded. All Ayes to accept the minutes.
 - d. Mike Riordan, Treasurer, provided a financial report through June, 2008. Revenue: budget (\$17,862) vs. actual (\$17,428) or (-\$434 variance). Expenses: budget (\$13,537) vs. actual (\$11,921) or (-\$1,616 variance). We have \$70,894 in reserves.
 - e. The annual election was held and Brian explained that the terms of the current Vice President, Secretary and Membership Officer were expiring. The slate of candidates was presented and included Frank Krug, Sherry Vivar and Chris Hield for the respective positions. Brief biographies of each candidate were distributed to attendees and will be posted online. Since there were three candidates, three openings and no nominations or protests from the floor, Brian made a motion to accept the slate, Mike Riordan seconded and the slate was elected by acclamation.
 - f. Brian recognized retiring board members Renee Reinglass and Michelle Wiedman for their leadership and dedication to RNRA and presented those in attendance with a plaque acknowledging their distinguished community service.
2. 42nd Ward Update was presented by Alderman Brendan Reilly
 - a. His office is continuing to work to resolve the alley deterioration with 400 W. Ontario and Admirals Point. The City cannot improve private property. May be a vote to dedicate the alley back to the City.
 - b. Announced that the Sunday Farmers Market has gotten off to a great start and requested we continue patronizing so as to see continued growth and vendors for next year.
 - c. The temporary structure at the entrance to the Chicago Avenue Brown line station has been removed.
 - d. Continued discussions with Chicago Park District regarding playground and DFA for Erie Park.
 - e. Requests have been made for additional security fencing for the Ohio Place dog park. Waiting for IDOT to grant easement.
 - f. Dumpsters placed on Ohio Street have been limited to one. Streets and San will monitor and remove debris on a more frequent basis to reduce odor.
 - g. Continue to follow the RFP process for development of the Fort Dearborn Station Post Office site. The goal remains keeping the property as closely aligned with the 2020 Central Area Plan to create maximum at-grade public green space.
3. Public Safety Update was presented by 18th District Officer David Eshoo

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- a. We have seen decreases in theft - down 2%, criminal damage - down 18%, criminal trespass - down 39% and burglary - down 58%. Despite an increase in auto theft. Through June, overall crime has declined 5% from the previous year.
 - b. Department is utilizing decoy vehicles to detect and deter criminals "in the act".
 - c. The sale of the Buzz Club to new owners has fallen through and the bar can continue to operate until an eviction process has been completed.
 - d. Community involvement is welcome and strongly encouraged via attendance at local CAPS Beat meetings.
4. Erie Park Capital Improvements
- a. Frank Krug presented updates on Erie Park Capital improvements.
 - i. Permanent fencing along the riverfront, Larrabee Street and the Erie Terrace has been installed.
 - ii. IEPA approval for the playground is expected before the end of the year. Once approved, RFPs for design will commence. Public meetings should hopefully be held late 08, early 09 with RFP construction bids to follow. Anticipating project completion some time in 2009. Working in some design for wetland development along the river.
 - iii. The public information kiosk has been relocated to the southeast corner outside Caribou Coffee where it can be utilized by dog owners and does not interfere with park vistas.
5. Planned Programs & Activities
- a. The successful outdoor film festival continues with the following movies still to air:
 - i. Tue 7/22 – Dream Girls
 - ii. Tue 8/5 – The Great Debaters
 - iii. Tue 8/26 – Happy Feet
 - b. The 7th Annual River North Summerfest was held 6/22. The expansion of this year's fest was well received, despite the monsoon near the end of the day. Still awaiting final financial results for the joint RNRA/RNA event.
6. Local Development – Gene Rapaport reviewed the RNRA's guiding principals for responsible development and announced that an update to the RNRA website now includes a downloadable development matrix and interactive map. DPD's Near North Project Manager Paul Zalmezak provided updates on the following projects.
- a. Parc Huron at 469 W. Huron – Lennar Development will no longer be involved in this parcel of land. Another developer is negotiating for acquisition with plans to execute the already-approved (and publicly supported) PD.
 - b. 501 N. Clark – Friedman Properties - 3 hotel complex, still under review.
 - c. Flair Tower at 214 W Erie – MCafferey Interests – PD approved, pending construction.
 - d. LaSalle, Illinois & Franklin – JDL - PD approved, still under review.
 - e. Franklin/Illinois – JDL - PD approved – pending construction.
 - f. Chicago & Kingsbury - PD approved - but no plans in place.

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- g. Park Kingsbury – Cataldo/Marovitz – reapproved as loft conversion - pre-sale.
 - h. 757 Orleans: under construction.
 - i. Kingsbury & Illinois – Habitat - PD approved for 46 story tower with 450 units. No plans have yet been unveiled.
 - j. Huron Club – 8 E. Huron – 47 unit condo, approved.
 - k. 9 W. Erie – eco-friendly condo development, pending approval.
 - l. Clark & Kinzie – Friedman Properties - 700 unit parking lot, PD approved.
7. Community Service Organization Profile
- a. Kyle Curry, Project Manager for Rock for Kids gave a presentation on the organization's community involvement and signature initiatives.
 - i. Youth Jam: RFK's largest program brings free music education to over 500 underprivileged children throughout the Chicago area.
 - ii. Holiday Wish List Shopping: responds to the needs of area homeless facilities and battered women's shelters.
 - iii. Women's Shopping Program: subsidizes mothers to shop for their own children. The women are given the opportunity to utilize independent living skills—comparing prices, budget preparation, and decision-making—integral to survival.
 - b. Brian updated attendees on the (Cleanslate Chicago) weekend street cleaning program, which beautifies the neighborhood, deters crime, provides employment for at-risk individuals and is entirely underwritten by local hospitality businesses.
8. Upcoming Events and Open Forum
- a. Dreamgirls (Movies Under the Stars)
 - i. *Tues July 22 – Approximately 8:45 pm – Erie Park*
 - b. 18th District National Night Out
 - i. *Tues Aug 5 – Noon to 3:00 pm – 1160 N Larrabee*
 - c. The Great Debaters (Movies Under the Stars)
 - i. *Tues Aug 6 – Approximately 8:45 pm – Erie Park*
 - d. Beat 1831 CAPS Meeting
 - i. *Thu Aug 7 – 7:00 to 8:00 pm – 645 N. Kingsbury*
 - e. Rock For Kids 6th Annual Music Mixer
 - i. *August 13, 2008 from 7PM - 11PM at SmartBar*
9. 59th Annual Chicago Air and Water Show
- a. *Aug 15 - 17 above & along the downtown lakefront*

As always, a PDF version of the entire slide show from this meeting will be available in the archives section of www.rivernorthresidents.com.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Vivar, RNRA Secretary