

**River North Residents Association**  
 Minutes of the 2006 Annual Meeting and Election

The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers of the River North Residents Association was called to order at 7:15 p.m. on July 28, 2006 at Reza's Restaurant, at 435 W. Ontario Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Brian Israel, President, opened the meeting. Executive Committee members Rene Reinglass and Thom Willis were present. Vice President Andrew Swedenborg, Treasurer Frank Krug and Secretary Arielle Henneghan, were not present.

The Mr. Israel asked that the minutes of the last meeting be approved. Mr. Willis seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

A roll call was taken by Ms. Reinglass. The following buildings were represented.

520 W. Huron	653 N. Kingsbury	City Club town homes
645 N. Kingsbury	400 W. Ontario	420 W. Grand
510 W. Erie	900 N Kingsbury	400 N. LaSalle
411 W. Ontario	360 W. Illinois	333 W. Hubbard
600 N. Kingsbury	500 W. Superior	720 N. Larrabee
550 N. Kingsbury	421 W. Huron	758 N. Larrabee

A new member was acknowledged and welcomed; The Montgomery at 500 W. Superior. Mike Riordan, President of The Montgomery Condominium Association, spoke about the building and the new restaurant going in on the ground floor.

The new 18<sup>th</sup> District Police Commander, Bob Evans, was introduced. He spoke of his 35-year background with the Chicago PD and his observations about, and priorities for, the 18<sup>th</sup> District. He stated his intention to continue most of the policies of his predecessor, Cmdr. Bill O'Donnell.

An update of the upcoming River North Summerfest was given by Mr. Israel. It is a joint venture between RNRA and RNA and will be held along the south side of Erie between Kingsbury and the Chicago River (adjacent to the park) from Noon until 3:00 PM on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. This event will be substantially larger than RNRA's typical summer block parties of years past and as many as 500 attendees are expected.

Mr. Israel briefly summarized the results of a neighborhood survey that was recently conducted regarding the new transitway that has been proposed by the CDOT to link the West Loop with River North, Michigan Avenue, the St. Clair medical district and Navy Pier. As shown below, the results were generally positive. Details are available on our website.

Survey Period	Resident Responses	Business Responses	Total
March 10 – 31, 2006	155	123	278
Would CTA ridership increase?	Yes: 78.2%	Yes: 68.2%	

A residential and commercial development update was presented to address several local projects whose status had changed since the last community meeting. The update included information regarding two significant projects.

- The variance recently granted to the developer of the "Ronsley" site, which will allow an

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11% larger floorplate, elimination of first-floor retail space and a change from internal to external balconies to add approximately 30% more living and parking units.

- The PD change sought by the developer of the “SBC site”, which will replace the 14,000 square foot retail/commercial building with a larger public park and 4 upscale town homes facing Hudson Street.

The update also reviewed 20 retail enterprises that have opened in our area during the last 30 months and 8 that are in-process or expected soon.

42nd Ward Alderman Burton Natarus addressed the attendees about the state of the River North neighborhood. Among the issues he raised were the following:

- The new Erie Park is slated to be open in August of this year, once a drainage problem is corrected, the river walk is paved and some new fencing along the south border is installed.
- Construction of the children’s playground (to be located in the northeast corner of the main section) will begin in September of this year.
- A second designated dog area is being considered for the north section of the park between Larrabee and the river. Detailed plans and timeline have not been finalized.
- The hoped-for Farmer’s Market will not occur this year due to the difficulty of locating qualified farmers to participate. It may be reconsidered next year.

Heather Imhoff of the RNA gave a presentation on the work being done on a River North “Vision Plan”, which is a comprehensive community-wide streetscaping initiative designed to improve transportation and convenience, enhance the appearance of many public areas and give River North a distinctive look and feel. The presentation displayed artist renderings of the designs as they have been conceptualized to date.

Mr. Israel outlined a “Letter of Understanding”, which has been developed to define the objectives and principles of the relationship between the RNRA and the RNA. The letter has been posted online.

Mr. Israel updated attendees on the progress that has been made with the new Chicago Hospitality Resource Partnership, which engages residents, bar/restaurant owners, beverage distributors, public safety officials and regulators to plan, manage and police hospitality zones for the good of all interested parties. More information is available our website.

Mr. Israel outlined the changes that have been proposed for the RNRA by-laws, which include the following.

- Our **Purpose and Activities** have been redefined as follows:
  - This Association shall be organized and conducted as a not-for-profit Corporation, pursuant to the laws of the State of Illinois, committed to enhancing the quality of life in the area through constructive engagement with residents, city officials, local businesses, community organizations and other stakeholders on issues of mutual interest.
  - The primary concerns of the Association shall be improving and maintaining neighborhood security, infrastructure and amenities, encouraging responsible and well-managed commercial and residential real estate development and

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advocating and/or facilitating cooperative, respectful and mutually beneficial relationships between area residents, commercial entities and other stakeholders.

- Our **Membership Categories** have been refined to allow only residents, either represented by homeowners associations or as individuals in the absence of such associations, to enjoy voting memberships. Appropriate limitations on voting aggregation and dues for individual members have also been instituted.
- New **Financial Controls** have been enacted to manage expenditures by Officers, the Executive Committee and the Board.
- The concept of **Authorized Representation** has replaced the requirement for member Association Presidents to act as Board Members. This change is designed to acknowledge the limited availability of individual Presidents' while creating a more practical conduit to facilitate engagement with the neighborhood association.
- In response to frequent inquiries from non-resident entities about participation in RNRA, we have formalized a **Sponsorship** program, through which businesses and non-profits can support the association, receive information and participate in community dialogue on a non-voting basis. This expands our reach and informs our discussions while generating revenue.
- The **Powers and Responsibilities** of the Executive Committee, the Board and the General Membership have been redefined to recognize levels of actual involvement while still providing for appropriate balance and controls.
- A new **Membership Officer** post has been created. This person will maintain records, participate in recruitment and renewals and most importantly, engage in an ongoing dialogue with Presidents, Property Managers and Authorized Representatives to ensure effective, two-way communication between local and community-level associations.

Mr. Israel motioned to approve the changes as presented. The motion was seconded by Thom Willis and carried unanimously. The new bylaws are posted online.

Pursuant to the Bylaws, the new slate of officers of the RNRA was voted into their respective offices by acclamation.

- Mr. Thom Willis of 411 W Ontario St was nominated as Secretary of the association, replacing Ms Arielle Heneghan, who generously stepped in to complete the term of the previously elected Secretary, who was no longer able to serve in that position. Mr. Willis' term expires in June of 2008.
- Ms. Rene Reinglass of 535 N Kingsburg was nominated as Membership Officer of the association. This is a new position on the Executive Committee. Her term expires in June of 2008.
- Mr. Andrew Swedenborg of 535 N Kingsburg was nominated as Membership Officer of the association. This is a new position on the Executive Committee. His term expires in June of 2008.

The two sitting Officers; President Brian Israel of River Bank Lofts and Treasurer Frank Krug of Two River Place, will remain in office until their terms expire in June of 2007.

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For reference purposes and for those who were unable to attend the meeting, the PowerPoint slide presentation from this (and previous) Community Meetings can be found in the Archives section of the RNRA website along with Minutes and Update Messages.

Brian Israel reminded attendees that the RNRA is their organization and that its mission, scope and agenda are dependent on the input and engagement of local residents. He invited members to get in touch with the Executive Committee to discuss any of their ideas, questions or concerns about the neighborhood and the issues we face. Residents were encouraged to contact Association Leaders via email: [info@rivernorthresidents.com](mailto:info@rivernorthresidents.com) and to visit the RNRA online at: [www.rivernorthresidents.com](http://www.rivernorthresidents.com)

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thom Willis, RNRA Secretary