

River North Residents Association

Minutes of the September 27, 2005 Board Meeting

The River North Residents Association Meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. on September 27, 2005 at Reza's Restaurant, at 435 W. Ontario Street, Chicago, Illinois. The first order of business was to thank the management and staff of our meeting sponsor, Reza's, for their long-standing hospitality and support. The owner and manager on duty stopped in and were greeted with a round of applause.

Brian Israel, President, introduced the other Officers and Executive Committee members; Frank Krug- Treasurer, Arielle Heneghan- Secretary, Andrew Swedenborg- Development Chair and Victoria Romano- Communications Chair. Mr. Israel announced that due to the demands of other volunteer commitments, Mark Schechter would be unable to continue in his current roles as Vice President of the association. Brian thanked Mark for all of his past work and contributions on the RNRA. Mr. Swedenborg of The Montgomery was nominated and approved by acclamation to serve as RNRA Vice President for the balance of Mr. Schechter's term, which expires in June of 2006.

Ms. Heneghan reviewed the June 28, 2005 meeting minutes and motioned for approval as submitted. Mr. Israel seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Krug presented the year-to-date financial report, noting the following:

- o YTD expenses: \$2,632.67
- o YTD revenue: \$6,053.00
- o Accounts receivable and payable: n/a
- o Debt: n/a
- o Current operating account balance: \$6,206.00
- o Current reserve account balance: \$28,500.00

Mr. Krug explained that RNRA funds had recently been transferred to new operating and reserve accounts at Cosmopolitan Bank in order to take advantage of increased interest rates. He motioned for approval of the financial report as submitted. Ms. Heneghan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Ms. Heneghan reviewed the membership application of Kinzie Park Condominium Association and motioned for approval. Frank Krug confirmed receipt of the appropriate pro-rated dues payment and seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.. Arielle Heneghan asked the Kinzie Park Treasurer, Mr. James Rooney, to speak about his community. Mr. Rooney explained that Kinzie Park is a five year old development consisting of a 180 unit condo tower, 80 row town homes and a 42-unit mid-rise, each with a separate association organized under one umbrella Association. On behalf of President Geoffrey Urban and Property Manager Jenny Armistead, he thanked the Board and said that the Kinzie Park leadership was pleased to join the RNRA.

Mr. Israel reviewed the newly updated RNRA Mission Statement, Primary Objectives and Guiding Principles. He motioned to formally adopt the new policy document and Mr. Krug seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. The new statement will soon be posted online.

The residential development update was presented by Mr. Swedenborg, who briefly reviewed each of the 17 major projects that are proposed, pending or under construction in our area, which is bordered by Wells Street on the east, Chicago Avenue on the north and the river on the south and west. Data from the presentation will soon be posted on the RNRA web site.

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The retail development update was presented by Mr. Krug, who identified the 13 local businesses that have opened within the last 24 months, as well as six more that are slated to open in the near future and over a dozen new retail locations yet to be developed. He reminded attendees of the connection between increased residential density and retail trade in our community and encouraged everyone to patronize our neighborhood establishments.

Mr. Jim Chronis, COO of the Chicago Park District, reviewed the status of Erie Park:

- Landscaping progress was delayed due to a soil remediation issue that should be resolved shortly.
- Funds have been identified for an irrigation system to be installed soon. This should materially improve the year-round health and appearance of the foliage.
- Planting is scheduled to be completed before the first frost (within the next 4-6 weeks) and should include approximately 150 trees, 125 shrubs and sod.
- Additional concrete walkways will be poured on the south side of the site, followed by lighting, benches, trash receptacles and a 4.5' ornamental iron fence.
- A significant sculpture has been donated and will be installed in the corner of the park at Erie and Kingsbury.
- A security car will supplement local police patrols to help keep an eye on the new park. Mr. Chronis commented that he expected this to be one of the safest parks in the city.
- Plans are underway for the addition of a children's play area, the exact size, configuration and location are yet to be confirmed.

Mr. Israel relayed Alderman Burt Natarus' appreciation for the many calls, notes and flowers received during his brief illness and explained that although the Alderman was not able to attend the meeting, he but did send two representatives, Julie Derrig and Jill Piankowski of the Haymarket Group, to address the following 42nd Ward issues:

- A Traffic light will be installed at the corner of Ontario and Kingsbury no later than December 15, 2005
- Due to a technicality, the moratorium on new late-hour liquor licenses that was originally passed by committee will have to go back for review (the owners of local establishments were apparently not given sufficient notice of the hearing). The proposal is expected to pass again at next hearing in November and will then be voted on by the City Council.
- Excessive motorcycle noise has been a big issue for local residents. Stricter enforcement of existing ordinances began in early August and has helped to reduce the disturbance. All residents are encouraged to notify the Alderman if more motorcycle noise occurs and is bothersome.
- Developers of new residential projects are now required to install street lamps around their properties that match other new fixtures in the neighborhood..
- There was discussion of the alley that runs between Kingsbury and Orleans north of Ontario, portions of which are owned by six buildings, which prevents the city from taking responsibility for managing the alley. Four of the six buildings are evidently willing to deed the property to the city to resolve the issue, but 645 N. Kingsbury and 653 N. Kingsbury are unwilling to agree to this arrangement. Concerned about crime and maintenance problems in this area, residents asked that the Alderman's office work with impacted parties to find a solution.
- The Alderman's office was asked to look into creating loading zones near the intersection of Ontario and Kingsbury. This will require further discussion.

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Mr. Krug and Ms Heneghan noted that the 2005 RNRA Summer Block Party featured increased attendance and revenue, reduced expenses, more vendors, a new band, an expanded database and great weather. Next year's event will be held in the new park!

Ms. Romano, Communications Chair and Webmaster, reviewed current and planned enhancements to the RNRA website. These will include the following.

- River North news and events
- Information on the community, member associations and local businesses
- RNRA policy statements on development, pet protocol and effective relationships between residents and businesses.
- Neighborhood development information
- Links to a wide array of city services and other resources
- Personal safety and security information
- Interactive forms and surveys
- And much more...

Ms. Romano encouraged all attendees to provide e-mail addresses and gave assurances that these would be held in strict confidence and used only for the dissemination of community information.

Mr. Israel reviewed Old Business:

- Bylaws update project
- Meetings with City Officials, including representatives of the Department of Streets and Sanitation, the 18th Police District and the Department of Planning and Development.
- RNRA membership initiatives
- Planned attendance by Executive Committee representatives at upcoming member association Board meetings
- Holiday Party- tentatively planned for December 6, 2005

Community Reminders:

- Attend Beat 1831 CAPS meetings, which are held at 7:00 PM on the first Thursday of each month at Archeworks on Ontario. Each building should send a representative. Guest speakers will include Mr. Scott Brunner of the Liquor Commission in October and Ms. Cynthia Bathurst of D.A.W.G. in November.
- Call 911 in any emergency
- Call 311 for non-emergencies and to access city services
- Contact the 42nd Ward office for any community concerns and comments
- Encourage compliance with all pet-related ordinances
- Patronize local businesses
- Contact us at info@rivernorthresidents.com to join the association, participate on a committee, make a contribution, ask a question or provide input!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m. Once approved, these minutes will be posted on the RNRA web site.

Respectfully submitted,

Arielle Heneghan, RNRA Secretary