



REGENT SQUARE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

October 7, 2008, 7:10 p.m. – 8:40 p.m.

7604 Charleston Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15218

First draft dated October 29, 2008; final draft dated November 1, 2008)

NOTES: *Corrections or additions to first draft are in red (none received)*

Items needing clarification are in blue

Action Items from previous minutes will remain in minutes until addressed

Attendance:

| <i>Voting Members (Terms)</i> | <i>Organization/Initiative</i> | <i>1/5</i> | <i>1/26</i> | <i>2/4</i> | <i>3/3</i> | <i>4/7</i> | <i>5/5</i> | <i>6/10</i> | <i>7/7</i> | <i>8/4</i> | <i>9/8</i> | <i>10/6</i> | <i>11/3</i> | <i>12/1</i> |
|--|--------------------------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Cathy Brennan ('06-'08) | RSCA Board | | X | | | | | X | | | | | | |
| Liz Caplan ('08-'10) | RSCA Board | | X | X | | | X | X | X | X | | X | | |
| Pat DiRienzo ('07-'09; appt.) | RSCA Board, V-Pres. | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | | |
| Kathryn Griffin ('08-'10) | RSCA Board | | X | | X | X | | X | X | | | | | |
| Alina Keebler ('06-'08; 2 nd) | RSCA Board, Sec. | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | | X | X | | |
| Andrew Lang ('08; appt.) | RSCA Board | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | | |
| Melissa McDonough ('07-'09) | RSCA Board | X | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | |
| Darrell Rapp ('08-'10) | RSCA Board | X | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | X | | |
| Joan Reefer ('06-'08; 2 nd) | RSCA Board | X | X | | | X | X | X | X | | X | X | | |
| Frank Ruffing ('08; appt.) | RSCA Board | X | X | X | | X | X | X | | | | X | | |
| Kathleen Schneider ('07-'09; 2 nd) | RSCA Board, Treas. | | X | | | X | | | | | X | | | |
| Carole Stanier ('07-'09; 2 nd) | RSCA Board | X | X | X | | X | | | | X | X | | | |
| Carrie Webber ('06-'08) | RSCA Board, Pres. | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | | |
| <i>also attending:</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Christie Berger | Pgh Mayor's Office | | | | | | | | | | | X | | |
| Dr. Bianculli | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | |
| Jeremy Braverman Nelson Chipman | Pgh Neighborhood Narratives | | | | | X | | | | | | | | |
| Maureen Collins Jose Mieres | Frick Park Tennis Club | | | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jared Delaney | RSCA Citizens vs. Litter | | | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chip Eagle | Resident (Wilksburg) | | | | | | | | X | | | | | |
| Mike Evans | Mike The Balloon Guy Co. | | | | | | | | | | X | | | |
| John Godfrey | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | |
| Christy Hamilton | Interplay Day Care | | X | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rob Hosken | Waverly Church Board | | | | | | | | | | | X | | |
| Darrell Kinsel | Ctr. for Creative Play | | X | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ed Mallon | Swissvale Council | | | | | | | | | | X | | | |
| Kathie Meyer | Business Networking Group | | | | | | | | | | | X | | |
| Rae O'Hair | Edgewood resident | | | | | | X | | | | | | | |
| Arch Pelley ('05-'07) | RSCA Board ('05-07) | | X | X | | | | | | | X | | | |
| Alana Rykala | RSCA Newsletter | | X | | X | X | | | | | X | | | |
| Deneen Swartzwelder | Swissvale Mayor | | | | | | | | | | | X | | |
| Eli Silk | RSCA Website volunteer | | | | | | | | X | | | | | |
| Sally Thomas | Swissvale Planning Comm. | | | | | | | | | | X | | | |
| Jennie Watson | Pgh Mayor's Office | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | | | |
| Kay Wetzel | WSCC | | | | | | | | | | | X | | |

Call to Order: Carrie Webber, President, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Introductions/Visitors:

- Christie Berger - Pgh Mayor's Office: Ms. Berger has taken the place of Jennie Watson in acting as liaison to neighborhood groups and can assist RSCA in getting information to or from City of Pittsburgh agencies.
- Robert Hosken – Waverly Church Board: Mr. Hosken, a Regent Square resident, architect, and energy consultant, represents the Waverly Church in its request to obtain a letter of support (see *New Business* for more information)
- Kathie Meyer - Regent Square Business Networking Group: Ms. Meyer, a Regent Square resident and businessowner, will attend RSCA Board and act as a liaison between the two groups (see *Regent Square Business Group* for more information).
- Deneen Swartzwelder - Mayor of Swissvale: Ms. Swartzwelder is interested in RSCA initiatives and in being of help to the organization.
- Kay Wetzel - WSCC Board: Ms. Wetzel, a Regent Square resident and director of the WSCC, invites the RSCA and the community to attend the Ecofest, an environmental expo being held at the WSSC on Sat. October 11th, 10 AM-2PM and would like to encourage further co-operation between the two organizations.

Approval of Minutes:

- Alina Keebler sent September meeting minutes to all Board members and September attendees via email. Ed Mallon and Carrie Webber submitted some minor corrections which were incorporated into the minutes and minutes were resent to all. No further action is needed and minutes have been entered into Association records and posted on RSCA website.
- Action Item (9/08): **Pat DiRienzo** to send August minutes to all Board Members for review. **Board Members** to send corrections needed. **Alina Keebler** to forward finalized minutes to Bob McLaren for RSCA website archives.

Treasurer's Report:

- Treasurer Kathleen Schneider submitted the Treasurer's Report via e-mail (see attached report).
- Earlier in week, Ms. Schneider reported via email that on September 11, 2008 she renewed the 6 month CD for 12 months at a rate of 3.2% in the amount of \$6,239.64 at First Commonwealth Bank; and that the Regent Square Business Group has \$653 left from the amount collected last year for the business district light. She assumes that these funds will go towards the lights for this year.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee - Annual Meeting (Joan Reefer)

- Joan Reefer reports that the Annual Meeting of the Membership will be held on December 7th, 4-6 PM. during which the Regent Square part of the Pittsburgh Narratives film will be shown. Details are yet to be worked out. Joan Reefer moved, Pat DiRienzo seconded and all approved the event.
- General consensus was that the event should not be a fundraiser.
- Action Item (10/08): **Board** to discuss and decide on budget for the event via email.

Liaison - Government:

- Typhoon addition & Possible Traffic Pattern Changes – Swissvale Community Meeting
 - Carrie Webber reports that the Community Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14th at 4 PM at the WSCC.
 - Action Item: **Carrie Webber** to send text to Alina Keebler for inclusion in upcoming General and Business Email Blasts. **Alina Keebler** to ask Kitty Brunkhorst to send out Blast by Friday.
- City of Pittsburgh Eastern Neighborhood Meeting
 - City Council representatives have organized meeting on October 7th to share ideas and concerns among City neighborhood. No RSCA Board representative is able to attend.
- 909 S. Braddock Avenue Problem House
 - Owner, once again, is not maintaining property and is tax delinquent. Alina Keebler has written

- letter to Owner asking if interested in selling property, but there has not been a response. .
- Action Item (10/08): **Carrie Webber** to contact Dough Shields about reactivating Sheriff's Sale.

Neighborhood Improvements - South Braddock Avenue (Andrew Lang):

- Duquesne Light has rescinded what it said earlier regarding the use of its poles for banners and is requiring that the pole assessment (and accompanying fees) be submitted every 90 days.
- Discussion ensued about other alternatives such as banners placed out from storefronts along the business corridors or grouped on the stoplight poles at the Braddock/Hutchinson intersection. Questions arose about Swissvale signage regulations and ownership of the stoplight poles.
- General consensus is that, if banners are too difficult, Committee should focus its attention on trash cans and benches.
- Action Item (10/08): **Christie Berger** to share information on similar business district improvement initiatives in City of Pgh.
- Action Item (10/08): **Andrew Lang/Frank Ruffing** to meet with Business Group to obtain feedback on logistics and desirability for placement of banners on storefronts.
- Action Item (7/08): **Andrew Lang/Frank Ruffing** to ask banner company to make suggestions for design using Regent Square logo and selected tagline

Regent Square Business Group (Kathie Meyer):

- Leadership:
 - Nancy Drew, of Drew Designs, is the new chair of the Business Group. Kathie Meyer will act as Liaison to the RSCA and will attend Board meetings.
- Tree Lighting:
 - Business Group is fundraising among business owners to install lights in Business District trees again this year during the winter months and is getting several bids from electricians. Businesses have been approached in person and via RSCA newsletter and Business Email List.
 - Discussion ensued about the two Swissvale Christmas decoration usually hung during the holidays. General consensus was that the decorations not be put up.
 - Action Item (10/4): **Deneen Swartzwelder** to ask Borough to omit decorations on Braddock Avenue and inquire about Borough installing the tree lights pro bono.

Run Around the Square (Pat DiRienzo)

- Pat DiRienzo reports that the Race organization has approved the additional donation of \$700 towards the increased costs of printing the RSCA Newsletter.

Communications Committee (Liz Caplan/Alina Keebler)

- Next RSCA Newsletter will be a combined November/December issue. New articles from the Board are due by Friday October 10th.
- Suggestions of Regent Square activities are needed for inclusion in next Shady Avenue magazine column.

Other (Pat DiRienzo)

Halloween Party:

- While some area residents volunteered to help, no one volunteered to chair event. So, the Halloween Party has been canceled for 2008.

Lighting Contest:

- No one volunteered to chair event. So, the Lighting Contest will not take place this year.

Toy Drive:

- Group feels that this is a worthwhile endeavor that is much appreciated in and supported by community. Pat DiRienzo volunteers to continue to be involved but a couple of volunteers are needed.
- Kay Wetzel volunteers the WSCC as a drop-off location for toys and can talk to current classes about donations. The WSCC can also send out a notice via its email list.
- Action Item (10/08): **Liz Caplan** to write article for Newsletter and Email Blast.

Nominating Committee (Carrie Webber)

- Frank Ruffing requests that his name be removed from Nomination (He will continue to serve on Braddock Avenue Committee). However, the ballots have already been printed and distributed via the Newsletter.
- Action Item: **Board Members** to submit ballots at end of meeting.

Board Retreat (Carrie Webber)

- After a brief discussion, the 2009 Board Retreat was set for Saturday, January 10; location to be decided. The general consensus was that no facilitator will be needed.

New Business

Waverly Church Letter of Support (Rob Hosken)

- Waverly Church, located at the corner of Forbes and S. Braddock, is pursuing funding from Pittsburgh History and Landmarks (PHLF) for masonry restoration and improvements to its entry steps. PHLF requires a letter of support from the surrounding neighborhood. Mr. Hosken submitted a draft for such a letter to be signed, upon approval, by the RSCA. Liz Caplan moves, Darrel Rapp seconds, and all agree that the RSCA sign the letter.
- Action Item (10/4): **Rob Hosken** to email the text and **Carrie Webber** to put it on RSCA letterhead and return to Mr. Hosken.

Adjournment

- At 8:40 PM, **????** moved that the October meeting of the RSCA Board of Directors be adjourned. **????** seconded the motion. All approved.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

Business Group: Tuesday, October 14, 2008, 5:00 PM; Neighborhood Realty Services

Town Hall Meeting – Sanders Traffic Pattern: Tuesday, October 14, 2008, 7 PM; WSCC

Board Meeting: Monday, November 3, 2008 7 PM; Wilkins School Community Center

Annual Membership Meeting: Sunday, December 7, 2008 4-6 PM; [location TBD](#)