

Regent Square Civic Association

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (first draft – 5/30/08) (corrections in red)

May 5, 2008, 7:10 PM – 8:35 PM

7604 Charleston Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15218

In attendance: Carrie Webber (President), Liz Caplan, Pat DiRienzo, Andrew Lang, Melissa McDonough, Joan Reefer, Frank Ruffing,

Absent: Cathy Brennan, Kathryn Griffin, Alina Keebler, Darrell Rapp, Kathleen Schneider, **Carole Stanier**

Guests: Jennie Watson (Pittsburgh Neighborhood Initiatives), Rae O’Hair (Edgewood resident)

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

Update: Jennie Watson from Pittsburgh Neighborhood Initiatives reported that traffic engineers have been out on Braddock Avenue studying traffic, but their report is being held up because of a suit against the city by another party. She shared the “Pennsylvania Traffic Calming Handbook – PennDOT Publication #383” (available at www.dot.state.pa.us). Jennie also shared information on banners and benches with Frank and Andrew.

Approval of Minutes: Joan Reefer moved, and Melissa McDonough seconded that the minutes from the April Board meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: Kathleen Schneider submitted the Treasurer’s Report electronically. There were no comments nor questions.

Calendar Updates: There was a question about whether Typhoon’s monthly antiques flea market was posted.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Updates – with Reports

Executive Committee (report submitted electronically)

Discussion: There was a discussion about allocating budgets to various committees and activities.

Motion: The Executive Committee should have a \$500 budget annually.

Liz Caplan moved, and Joan Reefer seconded. Passed unanimously.

Motion: Committees and activities shall have an annual budget prepared by the previous year’s chairperson.

Pat DiRienzo moved, and Melissa McDonough seconded. Passed unanimously.

Discussion: There was a short discussion about Board members’ attendance at monthly Board meetings. It was agreed that attendance would be monitored more closely as the By-Laws state that Board members cannot miss more than three consecutive meetings. Liz Caplan suggested temporarily changing the meeting day because of conflicts that several Board members are having with meeting on the first Monday of the month. President Carrie Webber will follow-up with Board members on both attendance and with a temporary change in meeting day.

Discussion: There was a short discussion about recruiting potential Board members. It was suggested that an accountant and a business owner would be people to consider. President Carrie Webber challenged all Board members to come to the next meeting with the name of a potential Board member, and will write an article for the next newsletter.

Discussion: There was a brief discussion on committees. It was suggested that the Communications Committee be “subdivided” into several tasks in order to make the tasks more

manageable, and to recruit committee chairs and members. President Carrie Webber will work on committee structures.

Discussion: There was a discussion about posting religious and political items in the newsletter calendar. The board determined that the bible camp in question should be allowed in the newsletter calendar. The basis for this decision was our Mission Statement “The Regent Square Civic Association (RSCA) serves all the residents, businesses, and property owners in Regent Square”. The board would like to have a disclaimer placed at the bottom of the newsletter calendar section which indicated that we do not necessarily endorse any organization and that we reserve the right to refuse any submission. We will request that Kathleen draft an appropriate statement.

Motion: Any and all calendar events submitted will be included in the newsletter and on the website, with a disclaimer noted.

Liz Caplan moved, and Frank Ruffing seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Updates – No Reports

Yard Sale – Joan Reefer and Melissa McDonough reporting

Discussion: There was a discussion about the Yard Sale budget and several other issues related to the sale.

Motion: The 2008 Yard Sale will be allocated a \$500 budget.

Liz Caplan moved, and Melissa McDonough seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Business Networking Committee

Discussion: There was a discussion about the request made at the April meeting to allocate \$800 to the Neighborhood Narratives to defray the cost of catering while filming a segment of “Greetings from Pittsburgh” in The Square. There were questions asked and ideas shared. It was recommended that the RSCA support the filming through granting the funding request. It was also suggested that we think about a fund-raiser (possibly related to release of the film) to help recoup these funds.

Motion: The RSCA will support “Neighborhood Narratives” by donating \$800 to help defray catering costs.

Andrew Lang moved, and Frank Ruffing seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Liaison – Government

- Joan Reefer and Melissa McDonough are willing to serve as liaisons to Wilkinsburg.
- It was decided that instead of having a liaison to Pittsburgh from the RSCA, we are better served to continue our relationship with Jennie Watson. She can take out concerns or requests to the proper departments within the City.
- Andrew Lang reported attending the Edgewood Borough Council meeting and finding Council members quite welcoming. Some highlights of the meeting: the C.C. Mellor Library is in need of funds; Council is looking at some sort of crosswalk at the corner of Sanders and S. Braddock AND at enforcing jay walking (even though there are currently no ordinances about jay walking!); and Council is looking for high school juniors and seniors from Edgewood to serve on Council.
- Andrew will also follow up on the email that was received expressing concern about parking in Edgewood (sent by a person who is renting an apartment).

Liaison – Community

- President Carrie Webber has been trying to contact the woman who is attempting to bring back the Center for Creative Play.

Membership

- There were some questions about why all Board members are not on the most current membership listing.

Motion: It was moved by Pat DiRienzo and seconded by Frank Ruffing to adjourn the Board meeting at 8:35 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: To be determined