



REGENT SQUARE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

September 7, 2008, 7:10 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

7604 Charleston Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15218

First draft dated September 12, 2008; final draft dated September 19, 2008)

NOTES: *Corrections or additions to first draft are in red (submitted by Ed Mallon, Carrie Webber & Alina Keebler)*

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>	1/5	1/26	2/4	3/3	4/7	5/5	6/10	7/7	8/4	9/8	10/6	11/3	12/1
Cathy Brennan ('06-'08)	RSCA Board		X					X						
Liz Caplan ('08-'10)	RSCA Board		X	X			X	X	X	X				
Pat DiRienzo ('07-'09; appt.)	RSCA Board, V-Pres.	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			
Andrew Lang ('08; appt.)	RSCA Board	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			
Joan Reefer ('06-'08; 2 nd)	RSCA Board	X	X			X	X	X	X		X			
Frank Ruffing ('08; appt.)	RSCA Board	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			
<i>also attending:</i>														
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											
Darrell Kinsel	Ctr. for Creative Play		X											
Ed Mallon	Swissvale Council										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			
Eli Silk	RSCA Website volunteer								X					
Sally Thomas	Swissvale Planning Comm.										X			
Jennie Watson	Pgh Mayor's Office	X	X	X	X	X	X							

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

Introductions/Visitors:

- Ed Mallon: Swissvale Borough Council member
- Sally Thomas: member of the Swissvale Planning Commission

- Mike Evans: owner of Mike The Balloon Guy & Co.

Approval of Minutes:

- Alina Keebler sent June and July meeting minutes to all Board members. Some minor corrections were returned and minutes were resent to all. No further action is needed and minutes will be entered into Association records.
- 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:

- Kathleen Schneider submitted the Treasurer's Report via e-mail (see attached report).
- All agreed to renew CD that is up for renewal this month.
- Action Item (9/08): **Kathleen Schneider** to renew the CD for 12 months at a 3.25% rate.

Committee Reports:

Liaison - Government:

- Camp Bow Wow (Ed Mallon/Sally Thomas)
 - Camp Bow Wow has withdrawn its application for variances for establishing a dog kennel at the Center for Creative Play building at 1400 S. Braddock due to negative community input.
 - Neighbors, especially those along Trevanion, were concerned about noise and fecal contamination of Nine Mile Run. **Sally Thomas** reports that Camp Bow Wow has a good track record at its other sites and would have changed the building from a non-profit to a taxable property.
- Typhoon addition & Possible Traffic Pattern Changes (Ed Mallon/Sally Thomas)
 - Typhoon, located at the northwest corner of the Braddock/Sanders intersection, has received three variances from Swissvale for building a 2-story addition that will extend the rear portion of its building towards Sanders. The addition will house offices, the parking lot will be reconfigured, and the entrance to the lot will be located on Sanders.
 - The Swissvale Planning Commission is concerned about the impact to traffic on Sanders, particularly as cars try to exit northbound onto S. Braddock. Possibilities include:
 - making the impacted block of Sanders one-way away (west) from S. Braddock thereby directing traffic towards Milton.
 - making the impacted block of Sanders one-way (east) towards S. Braddock and changing Charleston to one-way away (west) from S. Braddock
 - Swissvale Council is looking for input from the RSCA and the neighborhood as to whether alterations to the traffic patterns should be made **and if so, which changes should be incorporated.**
 - Attendees voiced concerns about additional traffic on the 1200 & 1300 blocks of Milton Ave. and Kappa Alley as well as on Hutchinson (already with much traffic) and Charleston (where WSCC activities attract many children). Attendees also discussed the impact of cars picking up merchandise from McBroom's Beer Distributor across from Typhoon. They worried about the appearance of the proposed signage for Typhoon.
 - The general consensus was that the RSCA should assist in informing the community about these possibilities before Swissvale takes action, possibly holding a town meeting on the matter.
 - Action Item: **Carrie Webber** to get details of Typhoon's signage variance, decide on date for town meeting, send out notices via newsletter and email blasts, and plan event. **Darrell Rapp** to assist.
- Children's Play Center (Mike Evans)
 - Mike Evans, owner of Mike The Balloon Guy & Co, is looking for feedback about the community's reaction to his applying for a variance to establish a year-round children's play center in the Center for Creative Play building. The center would include indoor activities (no arcade games) and performances, as well as, during the warm months, outdoor activities such as eurobungy, rock walls and food carts. Mr. Evans will be looking for funders for the project.
 - Attendees were mostly positive about the project but expressed concerns with noise, lighting, parking and getting in and out of parking lot. Attendees suggested that Mr. Evans consider an

environmentally friendly approach to obtain special funding, and that he contact the Enterprise Zone **which includes Swissvale as a member.**

- Other Swissvale Zoning Commentary

- Attendees also voiced concerns about the size of the loading zone, the appearance of signage, and the legality of sidewalk vending machines at McBroom's, as well as repainting of the crosswalk at Sanders and Braddock and the missing pedestrian crosswalk sign at S. Braddock and Charleston.
- Action Item: **Ed Mallon** to report back on the above.

Communications Committee (Alina Keebler) - see attached emailed report

- Newsletter:

- A list of those who will be notified about upcoming Newsletter deadlines is being created.
- Action Item: **Board Members** to review list and send additional contact information to Committee.
- Alina Keebler reports that printing cost increases will raise each issue by approx. \$560 or \$5,600 per year. Number of 6- page issues per year have been increasing. Group to decide whether to cut back on number of pages or number of issues or raise the Newsletter's budget.
- Committee has written a letter to the Run Around the Square organization requesting that additional funds be added to its annual contribution to the Newsletter's printing.

Run Around the Square (Pat DiRienzo)

- Pat DiRienzo reports that the Race organization will honor the above request since its proceeds were higher this year. As usual, the Race will divide its proceeds between the RSCA, WSCC and Frick Park Nature Center.
- The Race was very successful this year due to 1386 runners, 400+ walkers, on-line registrations and payments, and \$300 in donations to the WSCC Wheelchair Lift Fund. Race-day registrations are being dropped. Next year's race will take place the last Saturday in August as always.

Neighborhood Improvements - South Braddock Avenue (Andrew Lang):

- Swissvale and Edgewood have asked the Committee to contact Duquesne Light regarding the hanging of banners on electric and streetcar poles. Duquesne Light can assess each pole that is to be used. Upon completion of the assessment, RSCA will need to pay \$150 for first pole and \$75 for each additional pole assessed. **The fee will be determined after the poles are assessed.**
- Action Item: **Andrew Lang/Frank Ruffing** to submit Duquesne Light assessment application and provide results to boroughs.
- Action Item (7/08): **Andrew Lang/Frank Ruffing** to ask banner company to make suggestions for design using Regent Square logo and selected tagline

Liaison - Community (Carole Stanier) - see attached emailed report

Halloween Party Committee

- Pat DiRienzo has written article for September issue of Newsletter seeking a chairperson and volunteers. No response to date.
- Alana Rykala volunteers to chair committee. Melissa McDonough and Joan Reefer volunteer to help. Various ideas were discussed for activities, time and location. Committee will decide how to proceed.
- Action Item (9/08): **Alana Rykala** to contact Mike The Balloon Guy to participate.

Marketing Committee

No discussion

Membership Committee

- Annual meeting of the Membership needs to be held for 2008. Various ideas have been discussed. General consensus is that it should be simplified with shared responsibility for Board members as to food and drink. Event to take place in November or December so that it can be publicized in Newsletter.

Nominating Committee

- Newsletter with nominations form did not arrive at homes until after the September 7th nominations deadline.
- Carrie Webber is contacting nominees to discuss Board responsibilities and compile nominee bios.
- Action Item: **Carrie Webber** to send bios to Newsletter.

Board Retreat (Carrie Webber) – see attached email

- Possible dates include Saturday, January 17, 24 and 31

Pending Items (from previous meetings)

- Liaison – Government
 - Action Item(5/08): **Darrel Rapp** to clarify the role and goals of the committee.

Adjournment

- At 9:00 PM, Joan Reefer moved that the September meeting of the RSCA Board of Directors be adjourned. Kathleen Schneider seconded the motion. All approved.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

Business Networking Group: Tuesday, September 16, 2008, 5:30 PM; Loc. TBA

Regent Square Film Premiere: Thursday, September 25, 2008, 7:30 PM; Regent Square Theater

Board Meeting: Monday, October 6, 2008 7 PM; Wilkins School Community Center

RSCA Town Hall Meeting – Sanders Traffic Pattern: Wednesday, October 15, 2008, 7 PM; WSCC

Business Networking Group: Tuesday, October 21, 2008, 5:30 PM; Loc. TBA

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

Board Meeting: Monday, December 1, 2008 7 PM; location TBD