



Roland Park Civic League

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

May 20, 2009

Roland Park Elementary and Middle School

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM

Attendance: Phil Spevak	Louise Phipps Senft	Michael Braverman
Jesse Halvorsen	Mike McQuestion	Jennifer Cooper
Ian Macfarlane	Ken Winkler	Christine Belser
Rita Walters	Muriel Berkeley	Chris McSherry
David Blumberg	Bill Sharpe	Kate Culotta

Also in attendance at presenting table: Mary Page Michel, John Kevin, David Tufaro, Ken Rice.
Audience size estimated at ~250 people.

Approval of 2008 minutes: motion by Ken Winkler, second by Christine Belser; approved

Phil Spevak acknowledged local politicians in attendance: Councilpersons Green and Clarke and Spector and representing the Council President, Kevin Carney; State officials Gladden, Rosenberg, Oakes, Carter, Robinson.

Treasurer's Report: Jesse Halvorsen explained that the formal report is delayed due to the office move and reorganization and will be reviewed at the next regular Civic League meeting in June. He stated that the finances are in solid shape and as expected for this time of year. He explained that funds for special projects during the year were offset by donations.

Nominating Committee: Louise Phipps Senft & Chris McSherry; read the slate of officers and plat reps for the coming year. Submitted the slate for vote. Motion by Ian Macfarlane, Second by Louise Phipps Senft; vote approved

Phil Spevak spoke about the volunteer card and acknowledged the special efforts of the community in the issue involving the BCC.

Foundation Report by Ken Rice: described functions of Foundation, annual appeal, estate planning gift. The Annual Spring Celebration raised \$5000. Mr. Rice spoke about the preservation of BCC land, renovation of the Roland Park Fire House, and the contribution of the Roland Park Newsletter now in its 8th year.

Roads & Maintenance Report by John Kevin: John described the functions of R&M, the application

process and web site information. Discussed fees, mowing, debris pickup & path maintenance.

Civic League Report by Phil Spevak-discussed projects from the previous year:

1. *RP Firehouse renovation*- Bill Sharpe & firefighter Mike Hine line initiated and spearheaded the effort. City improvements, new lockers, truck compartment improvements including paint, tile, electrical and exhaust work are completed. Upcoming kitchen renovation, need additional \$11,000 and bond bill for 2nd floor. We acknowledged the importance of Senator Gladden, Delegate Rosenberg in the successful Senate appropriation.
2. *Traffic & Transportation*- Chris Mc Sherry: supported idea for speed cameras, requested 4 cameras for Roland Avenue & Cold Spring Lane. Repainting of Crosswalks and signage.
3. *Beautification Committee*- Louise Phipps Senft: Island planting and clean-up, native plant sale, path maintenance
4. *Web Site*-Doug Munro Thank you to Doug for all his extensive and hard work
5. *Zoning* - Keswick BCC- Land Use Committee & Board members acknowledged for their work. Marirantist Property- Land Use committee & neighborhood input along successful process involving the developers, Jack Dwyer and Frank Harvey
6. *Office Re-organization*: New office in Roland Park over Tuxedo Pharmacy, new insurance company selected and upcoming search for permanent office manager.
7. *CHAP*- will continue with 2nd meeting if there is neighborhood interest
8. *Other efforts*: Lecture Series- Mike McQuestion, Village Project- Susan Newhouse, Membership Drive - David Blumberg and Jennifer Cooper, Neighborhood mediation: East lane issue – Michael Braverman; Sewer Project- Ian Macfarlane

Cards were provided for residents to volunteer for areas of involvement.

New initiatives:

1. *Pilot sustainability project* – We will partner with City in efforts to reduce energy use in Roland Park and the hope is that the Civic League will broaden the effort to include other actions including consideration of bulk buying of oil.
2. *Master Zoning Plan*- David Tufaro has spearheaded initial work and we will likely pursue this effort in conjunction with the Transform Baltimore Rezoning effort.
3. *BCC*- we have continued to build dialogue with Club and on May 7 an offer to purchase the property was delivered by Phil Spevak to BCC President John Daue. He indicated that the Club would respond to the community's offer in the next 7-10 days. Phil Spevak explained that there was evidence of mutual respect and an agreement to future meeting between the two sides to work toward achievement of the organizations' respective goals.

Before the introduction of Dr. Alonso, Rachel Tunis, student at RPES was introduced and sang "Over The Rainbow" from The Wizard of OZ. Rachel was accompanied by music teacher, Erin Mc Coy

Introduction and welcome to Dr Alonso by Muriel Berkeley.

1. Dr. Alonso opened with 2 quotes about the importance of community in education, mission statement and promise. He spoke about accomplishments over the past 2 years. He met with leaders of the Independent Schools and discussed reaching out and changing traditional boundaries. He talked about what the community can do for the public schools in

their area and he mentioned the ability to sign up for e-blast (check city web site). He took 6 questions from the audience: Martha Kwiterovich- class placement, Peter Wayner-what questions should be asking to most benefit kids, David Karp- perception of City College, Phil Spevak- what works in the toughest schools, Bill McCarthy- what is the physical condition of most city schools, and Claudia Diamond-What is the future of RPEMS with 1200 students?
2.

Dr Alonso stopped speaking at 8:55 PM

Phil Spevak acknowledged Jennifer Cooper for work on Unified Database

Sharon Middleton and Delegate Rosenberg both spoke on behalf of the City Council and State Delegation.

Phil Spevak- closing statement, meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM