

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 7 November 2017

1. Call to Order and Welcome. J. Ayers called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm.

2. Acknowledgements from the Chair.

3. New Neighbors Introduction. 922 Park – Gordon Henry, President of ReNewport.

4. Committee Reports.

- **Police Report.** Be vigilant if you see suspicious activity, especially regarding package theft. First shift officers are diligently patrolling during after school hours – thanks from the residents present.
- **Mansion Hill/Gateway.** No updates.
- **Historic Preservation.** J. Morrow provided update about continued success of Historic Preservation Happy Hour – if interested in opening your property, please reach out. Future events are in the planning stages. J. Ayers reminded residents about possibility of Historic Preservation tax credit potentially going away – contact your representative if this is something you are passionate about preserving. J. Morrow said that Representative Rogers is in favor of keeping credit.
- **Beautification.** No updates.
- **Welcoming/Social.** No updates.
- **Dog Park.** No updates.
- **Philanthropy.** E. Robson has 2 applications for potential Christmas Tour donation – Newport Parks and Renaissance Committee and Newport History Museum (which opens 11/8/17 6-8pm). To be voted on in January 2018. If you have a 501c3 interested in being a recipient of the Christmas Tour donation – please have them complete a form, available online under Get Involved tab.
- **Christmas Tour.** K. Sutton was present with flyers, postcards, and yard signs. Homes are lined up for tour, dinner, and tea. Please contact Jeff Richardson if you would like to volunteer for a shift in one of the homes – more information to come soon, watch for Listerv updates. J. Ayers reported on ticket sales rolling in and tea seatings are beginning to sell out.

5. Treasurer's Report. Report was available for members to review. B. Owens provided update on monthly report. Pup Crawl netted about \$3,000 towards their future structures, possibly as early as next summer. Reminded that Riverfest was best year yet.

6. New Business. The Nominating Committee for board positions will be C. Siddall, J. Richardson, and B. Weiler. Board positions will need to be filled for following year, however 2 positions will need to be filled earlier for Secretary and Gateway Representative in the absence of H. and D. Fausz who are moving out of the neighborhood. If you are interested in serving on the board, either temporarily or for the upcoming term – please see a current board member or a member of the Nominating Committee.

A.Siddall shared potential parking lot development on 2nd Street. Stated that the area is zoned for parking and City Commissioners were unaware of the development. Property has been owned by an LLC since 1999. Unsure if the parcel is a part of the Historic District and if it is zoned Residential, how could it become a parking lot. Commissioner Guidugli shared that the city is not in favor of parking lots in Historic Districts, however if they meet the requirements of a parking lot within that residential zone, it is permitted by law as a conforming

use of the zone. Parking is allowed in all zones. Commissioner Guidugli stated that this typically could not occur without the demolition of multiple properties, as the property would be too small to meet the requirements. Properties were demolished in the 1980s and current commission is in favor of maintaining historic structures to prevent this from happening in the future. Parking lot is proposed to serve Riverfront Place office.

E. Carabello attended the sewer project meeting. Member from the EPA interested in learning the source of the issues/backups – where it's happening and what's happening. SD1 is looking for creative ways to "greenscape" – possibly rain barrels, etc. B. Weiler mentioned that data collection was done in recent years.

Paper copies of The Voice are available – if you have an idea for an article, please write it up and send it to the editor.

7. Old Business. J. Ayers reminded of Newport History Museum potential sponsorship. Opening is 11/8/17 6-8pm. J. Robson made a motion to donate \$1,500, seconded by K. Sutton, passed on voice vote. The \$1,500 from ERHF will be matched by the Mayerson Foundation; funds would go to Newport Foundations – a 501c3, so tax deductible if anyone would also like to make a personal donation to the Museum.

8. Open Forum. No updates.

9. Announcements.

November 8 – Newport History Museum opening, 6pm.

December 2-3 Christmas Tour and Tea

December 5 – ERHF Christmas Party (Food provided by Webb's, BYOB and bring a dessert to share.)

10. Approval of Minutes & Treasurer's Report. Both reports approved as distributed on voice vote.

11. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm for further discussion and refreshments. Refreshments provided by B. Owens.