

RIVERSIDE HOA, INC.

Meeting Minutes for

HOA Annual Meeting 10.29.2014

The 2014 Annual Meeting was held at the Riverwood High School auditorium on October 29, 2014. Notice of the meeting was provided beginning on September 29, 2014 via email. Members without email addresses were provided notice via US Mail on October 1, 2014.

The meeting commenced at 7:10 PM. Current board members in attendance were Reed Haggard, Deborah Minor, Suzanne Caruthers, Sheila Elliott, Sherry Epstein, and Megan Grout. In addition to the HOA members in attendance, the following guests were present: Mayor Rusty Paul, Councilman Graham McDonald, SSPD Officer Cory Begeal, and Riverwood Principal Robert Shaw.

Reed Haggard opened the meeting by welcoming all those in attendance and introducing the guests.

ELECTION

Reed Haggard thanked Amy Kilgore for her work as the nominations coordinator. Reed brought up a slide (on the large screen on the stage) containing the names of all those on nominated as the slate of Board members up for election. Reed went through each name, telling a little about each nominated board member, and introduced them if they were in the audience.

Reed then opened the floor for questions on the slate, and none were asked. With an appropriate quorum (confirmed in writing to be 42 individual member households in attendance), a voice vote was held. All those voting in the room voted "Yea" with raised hands to approve the slate. There were no "Nay's" nor anyone abstaining from the vote. The slate was thereby passed unanimously.

FINANCES

Following the vote, Reed Haggard introduced HOA Treasurer Deborah Minor. Deborah thanked the membership and said that she appreciated that people pay their dues to support the organization. She noted that the Board takes very seriously the decision making on how to spend the funds to best benefit the neighborhood. She reported that after starting the HOA two years ago with limited funds, the HOA has been able to save some funds over the last two years. Thanks to that, the Board now has approximately \$16,000 in the bank to use toward some of the many projects discussed by the Board and membership. She noted that the financials were available on the website.

Reed noted that there are several projects that have been suggested over the years and there was feedback provided by a neighborhood survey. The most popular were the landscaping and the condition of the existing signage. Some money was saved by the city paying for part of the traffic calming devices, and fewer were put in than were initially anticipated. He noted that the Board had waited on making decisions on projects to allow the new Board to be in place.

Reed asked for questions on financials and potential projects. One neighbor on Winding Creek Court asked who was responsible for the islands and whether the financial projects would include work on these islands. Reed confirmed that while the HOA does currently provide reimbursement for those who volunteer to maintain the islands, he agreed that many would like to see the islands – especially the key islands – upgraded. The goal would be to make them really showcase the neighborhood.

Another neighbor from Mountain Brook Way asked if the money could include having some consistency in the islands (like the same kind of mulch) and that they could all be regularly trimmed, etc. Reed confirmed that the goal is to have all the islands looking spruced up. The HOA wants and needs to have neighbors help maintain the islands near them, but the HOA will also look to support those islands that need some extra help.

SECURITY

The Security committee invited SSPD Officer Corey Begeal to update the HOA member on crime issues. He reviewed crime statistics in our area for the last three months. There have been 2 burglaries. One occurred at a home where the owner is often out of town. Officer Begeal reminded members to use the Out of Town House check. It's a free service from SSPD and a great way to protect the home while you are out of town. He also mentioned theft from vehicles in the area. Some were thefts from landscaping trucks. Overall, burglaries are down a great deal. He also noted that he brought flyers about several classes available from SSPD including women's self-defense, citizens on patrol, and a citizen's police academy. Also, he reminded residents to register their alarms.

With regard to traffic violations in the neighborhood, he did note that they take violations in our area seriously. Unfortunately, that includes ticketing residents. He then took questions. One suggestion made was to move the no left turn sign at Edgewater and Riverside up onto the cable that hangs the light. It might make it more visible. Officer Begeal offered to stay after the meeting to answer additional questions from members.

TRAFFIC

Suzanne Caruthers reminded members again why the new speed humps looked different than the older ones. This is due to a change in city policy that allows the new humps to be removed for paving so doesn't alter the effectiveness of the speed hump. [In addition to being easier for fire trucks to pass over]. She noted that some of the speed humps were removed for paving but will (or already are) reinstalled. She reminded the membership that the HOA would have liked to have more installed – but due to sight lines it was impossible. The Traffic Committee is still looking at other options – including on Old Creek Trail. The committee has asked for a traffic study from the city a month ago, and has not yet heard back from the city. As the neighborhood fills with younger children, there are increasing concerns about the speed and volume of traffic.

Some have requested gating off all of Riverside. Suzanne did discuss this with the city, and it just can't happen. It would require privatizing all the streets, which just is not a reasonable option. The traffic committee also noted that sidewalks were a popular request. Rusty Paul noted that the land has to be

donated by the owners, then the sidewalks will be paid for by the city. Getting everyone to donate the land is a very big challenge. Suzanne noted that at least, it would be good to have them on Old Creek Trail and up Heards Creek – because this area is particularly dangerous to joggers and people walking to school.

One audience member reminded that we need to think about our own speeds within the neighborhood - just because the speed limit is 25 doesn't mean you have to drive that fast. Suzanne did ask the city if the speed limit could be reduced but it cannot be. But, it was noted that people should drive much slower than 25 when there are pedestrians present. Richard Kopelman (new traffic chair) has had multiple experiences in the morning of local residents speeding past his children while they walk to school. He has requested a sign lowering the speed to 15 mph at the hill on Heards Creek because the sight line is so dangerous. He noted that the lane width in our neighborhood is 12 feet, and the wider the lane, the faster people travel. Roswell Road lane width is only 10 feet. Is it possible to narrow the street slightly to provide the much needed sidewalks? Plus, studies have shown that neighborhoods with sidewalks have increased property values.

One audience member asked if striping a walking lane would help. Richard believes it won't be sufficient to be safe for walkers. Suzanne noted, however, that the white lines for stop signs are helpful to make people stop. She has request the city stripe all the stop signs in the neighborhood to help make these intersections safer, especially those with bus stops.

Reed reminded the audience that Graham McDonald brought the diagrams for intersection changes in our area to the meeting. They were available in the back of the auditorium for people to review.

One audience member noted that parents are waiting for Riverwood students on the sides of the road at Heards Creek. This, combined with students milling around near the intersection, makes it very dangerous to try to turn onto Heards Creek in the afternoons. Suzanne discussed that this had been a major problem when she took over the Traffic Committee two years ago and the city changed the signs in the area from no parking to also "no standing." Thus, people waiting in their cars in that area is now a violation. She strongly encouraged people to call SSPD and report it as a non-emergency. Also, you can file a traffic complaint form. SSPD will come and ticket these people. We have a right as citizens to fill out these traffic complaint forms when we have concerns.

There were no other traffic questions.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Reed opened the floor to any questions about any topic that may concern people. One neighbor asked what the situation is with the roundabouts and whether they are going forward.

Rusty noted that before he and Graham were in their positions, someone in the city made an agreement with GDOT that if the city does not allow GDOT to implement their plans then the city will have to pay for changes. Therefore, the city would have to pay \$1.5 million dollars to make changes. GDOT says this is a safety measure and funded with federal funds. There is not support on the city

council to pay the \$1.5 million. Reed noted that the HOA came out against the roundabouts. He reported that this afternoon, the HOA received a long letter from GDOT. GDOT acknowledged that the large majority of responses they received were against the roundabouts. [Note by secretary: GDOT letter lists a total of 113 responses received. 90 were against, 14 in support, 8 uncommitted, and 1 conditional support.] Reed will provide the entire GDOT response to the membership in the next week. [Note by secretary: it has been posted on the HOA website.]

Reed is concerned that the side streets will be seriously impacted by the installation of the roundabouts. Rusty noted there are things they are trying to do to address side streets. Upcoming in February, the intersection at Riverside and Johnson Ferry will be shut down to realign it. Also, the intersection at Raider Drive and Heard's Ferry will be made more of a "t" so you can see the traffic coming.

The goal for the roundabouts (per GDOT) is to make it safe. One audience member asked how many fatalities at Riverside. Rusty did not believe there had been any, but noted there had been other kinds of accidents.

An audience member asked what the city was doing to anticipate the problems created by the new Braves stadium. Rusty noted that about 60% of people going to the stadium will come through Sandy Springs to get there. Initially, the Braves did not realize that Sandy Springs would be impacted. The Braves thought the traffic issue would solely be in Cobb County. Since meeting with the mayor, the Braves now better understand the impact to Sandy Springs and has offered to work with the city to seek solutions. Rusty has made a list of requested improvements and they continue to work with the Braves. He's not sure if all the improvements will be made, nor will they be immediate, but they are working together.

Per Rusty, three of the major areas in need of traffic improvement are Perimeter Center, Roswell Road (& the new City Center) and the Powers Ferry Exit. The city would like to see that any traffic that gets off the highway in Sandy Springs to get to the Braves Stadium use only Powers Ferry. Hopefully, that will minimize the impact on surrounding residential areas. The Braves don't have an absolute power to make GDOT do everything they need, but they are definitely aware of the impact now and want to work to solve it.

Reed said that the Board and guests will stick around after the meeting to answer any additional questions the audience may have.

RIVERWOOD

Dr. Robert Shaw, the principal of Riverwood, spoke and provided a Power Point presentation on the status of the school. He wanted to introduce himself to our community since we are so close to the school. He then reviewed his background and some of the current statistics at Riverwood regarding students, classes and testing. With regard to the renovation of the school, a design team came in last spring. A 21st century school design looks very different than what is in place now and the team was amazed by the poor quality of the Riverwood building. There will be a competitive process from architects in the next month. Then in December, the architects will determine whether to renovate or

rebuild. The problem is that if a rebuild is recommended (instead of a renovation) – this was not allocated under the recent SPLOST. The current SPLOST only allowed for a renovation. So there may be issues with SPLOST if a total rebuild is needed. Currently, the estimate is if a renovation is done, it should be completed in 2017. If a total rebuild is needed, it may be 2020 before it is completed.

Dr. Shaw asked members of the community to always communicate with him if they have concerns. He wants Riverwood to be a good neighbor. He asked everyone to encourage people to consider Riverwood when they are making decisions about education for their children. He asked if anyone has questions for him.

One audience member asked what the Wifi situation is in the school for student technology. Dr. Shaw noted that many students are encourage to bring phones and technology because it is used in class. But because the wiring has been patched together over the years, the building does not have a good infrastructure to manage all the technology. This is another reason why the renovation/rebuild is needed.

There were no further questions on any topic.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

On November 1, 2014, these minutes were approved via email by all Board members in attendance of the full meeting.

Megan Grout

Riverside HOA Secretary