

## MINUTES

### Ravinia Neighbors Association Board Meeting

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. at the Belle Fleur, 487 Roger Williams Avenue. Present were Gerald Field, Peg Laemle, Amy Lohmolder, Jean Meier, Don Miller, Elliott Miller, Doug Purington, Al Richman, Nancy Rotering, Paul Rubenstein, Paul Silverman, Jeff Stern, Ken Temkin and Dave Wigodner, and H.P. Park District Commissioner Elaine Waxman.

II. Rick Stumpf, Director of Parks & Planning, and Steve Meyer, Special Projects Manager, of the H. P. Park District, presented a progress report on the plans for revitalizing Rosewood and Central Park Beaches, which have been outlined in public meetings over the past two years. A referendum to fund the plans will be on the ballot in the November 4 election. The total public cost for improving both beaches is estimated at \$32 million, or \$67 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation on each home in the city. Harbor improvement costs will be raised privately. Meyer noted that the funding included a 20-year maintenance authorization.

III. A discussion on the issue of benches with backs for Jens Jensen Park was moderated by Paul Silverman, of the Friends of Jens Jensen Park. This was due to an issue, raised by Doug Purington, that a neighborhood resident could not sit comfortably in the park on the new flat stone benches. The intention of the discussion was for various stakeholders to state their thoughts

- Elliott Miller, a Jensen Historian and former member of the Highland Park planning commission, discussed the use of stone backs on some benches by Jensen and his son-in law, Marshall Johnson. Elliot also indicated that benches would need to be secured and would likely need to be set in a location with underlying flagstones.
- Rick Stumpf, Director of Parks & Planning of the Park District of Highland Park, briefly discussed their ideas for this issue. The Park District does not currently see a need for benches with backs in Jens Jensen Park.
- Several inner circle members of the RNA discussed park usage and whether the bench issue may be impacting park use.
- Paul Silverman will prepare an article on this issue for the next RNA newsletter and determine if there is a need to perform a survey of the community to determine support.

IV. Al Klairmont, the head of Imperial Realty and owner of business properties in Ravinia, spoke about what RNA might want the Ravinia Business District to be.

He said Ravinia would never be like downtown Highland Park or like it was years ago when three gas stations provided a variety of servicing for autos. He didn't

think Ravinia should be the dry cleaning, nail salon or hairdressing capital of the North Shore, but rather pedestrian friendly and successful by fulfilling a niche, such as becoming a restaurant row. He said condominiums would help in that regard, but that there was no short-term fix to solving Business District problems.

V. Amy Lohmolder was congratulated for her Earth Festival program at the Ravinia Metra station on May 3. She was not prepared to provide a report on the outcome of the event, but said she appreciated support from RNA and the community, and expected to organize similar Earth Day activities in the future.

VI. Regarding the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RNA coming up at the end of the year, Don Miller asked for suggestions on how to mark the occasion. It was decided to establish a committee for that purpose.

VII. In his Membership Report, Purington said he had collected \$2,500 since the last meeting, which included funds from 37 new members, of whom eight were past members, and 42 renewals. The 2008 non-renewals were twice as many as last year, or 61 vs. 31, which was a cause for concern. Purington said there was a new person running the Allstate Insurance office, and that its membership had been extended until 2010. He also said Councilman Steve Mandel sent in \$50, that Bob's Deli in Braeside was expected to open in September, and that Chuck Wenk had given a nice write-up of the Belle Fleur shop based on an RNA e-mail.

VIII. In his Treasurer's Report, Ken Temkin said RNA had \$1,800 in the bank plus a \$5,000 CD. He also said that the Earth Festival brought in \$7,100 vs. \$6,700 in expenses, for an overall gain of \$400.

IX. In his Train Station report, Jeff Stern noted that the station windows had been nailed shut by the city for security reasons, but that the city had also washed the windows. Don Miller described the ceremony held July 11 at the Ravinia fire station for Firefighter Donald Knoll upon his retirement after 40 years of service, and about the plaque from RNA that we presented to him.

X. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m. after setting Wednesday, September 17, as the date for the next meeting, with the location to be announced later.