

RNA General Meeting May 4 Updates Residents on Local Issues

Plans for the Ravinia Business District and park improvements, recognition of school essay contest winners and the unveiling of additional historic photos were among the topics of interest at the Ravinia Neighbors Association's General Membership Meeting May 4 in the Ravinia train station.

More than 70 area residents attended the meeting, where Linda Sloan, Planning Division Manager of Highland Park's Community Development Department, discussed streetscape improvements for Ravinia's commercial area and how a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district might help finance the project.

Developer Bob Burack talked about his plans for a new retail/office building on Roger Williams Avenue, where the Ravinia Associates in Internal Medicine medical office building now stands, and about construction of a condominium, The Crossings at Ravinia, expected to start this summer at the NE corner of Roger Williams and Green Bay Road .

Ravinia School 5th Grader Tom Haile, the winner of an RNA-sponsored essay contest about the advantages of living in Ravinia, was on hand to read his essay, and prizes were announced for the top four contestants. Haile called Ravinia "a blue-ribbon community," commending "its top-flight festivals, funfairs, beaches and its other stupendous qualities!"

Adding to the RNA's historic display in the train station, Fire Chief Alan Wax joined Firefighters Don Knoll and Stan Olsen in unveiling a newly framed photo of the 1929 dedication of the Ravinia Fire Station. A photo of the former Chicago North Shore & Milwaukee interurban electric station in Ravinia was also unveiled, along with a painting of the existing station by Ravinia artist Frederick Boulton.

RNA board member and environmentalist Paul Silverman discussed plans for the restoration of Jens Jensen Park and the support the project is receiving from the Park District of Highland Park. Highland Park Police Commander David Schwarz talked about efforts to address security problems in the neighborhood.

In recognition of their service since becoming founding members of the RNA seven years ago, Dave Hanus, Peg Laemle and Paul Rubenstein were honored at the meeting with inscribed mementos and contributions in their names toward the Jens Jensen Park restoration. The late Aviva Silberman, a onetime RNA president, was similarly honored.