

MINUTES

Ravinia Neighbors Association Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 17, 2008

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at Essence Pilates, 455 Roger Williams Avenue. There were 32 in attendance, including Don Miller, Eve Tarm, Ken Temkin, Jeff Stern, Amy Lohmolder Davies, Nan Harris, Lynne Jungman, Jean Meier, Harold Rafson, Alvin Richman, Paul Rubenstein, Paul Silverman and Dave Wigodner. Guests included Terri Olian, Mary Anderson and Steve Meyer.

II. Don Miller thanked Nan Harris for her service as Board Member at Large, and called for and received by voice vote approval of a motion by Dave Wigodner to replace her in that position with Amy Lohmolder.

III. Mary Anderson, Highland Park Director of Public Works, spoke about issues of concern to area residents pertaining to sewers and the recent storm. She said some area residents had water in their basements after the storm, and that the city has three priorities in dealing with the problem. The primary objective is to ensure that private property is protected from water damage; then to prevent water in yards from damaging building foundations, and finally to keep streets from flooding. In some parts of Ravinia over the past weekend, there were two issues that impacted water in basements: sanitary sewer backup, caused by storm water infiltrating into the sanitary sewer system, and storm sewer failure. She noted that in 2006 the city developed a master plan for both storm and sanitary sewer systems (viewable on the city's website), and that undersized storm sewers were an issue. While storm sewer improvements were completed recently on Burton and Blackstone, other projects are still forthcoming. She said the city spends about \$1.4 million a year in capital funding for storm and sanitary sewer programs throughout the city that does not include ongoing maintenance. She said projects to increase the size of storm sewer pipes on both Pleasant Avenue and Broadview can correct problems caused by the recent storm, and that the projected 2010 date of their implementation may have to be moved up. City Councilwoman Terri Olian joined Ravinia residents in discussing how the city is handling sewer issues and ways to address them more effectively.

IV. Ken Temkin presented the Membership and Treasurer's reports. He said RNA now has about 460 members, including 235 households, that about \$2,000 had been collected in membership fees, much of it for three-year renewals, and that there was about \$7,000 altogether in the RNA's account.

V. Lynne Jungman reported that the latest issue of the Newsletter went to the printer on Wednesday, and that it should arrive in the mail by October 1. She noted that more advertising had been received than could be accommodated.

VI. In a Business District Report, Dave Wigodner said a property owners' meeting Wednesday morning had been fairly well attended. He said the city reported that funds were beginning to accumulate for the Ravinia Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District, and would be used for the first market research study of the area since 1990, which was expected to be completed by next spring. Further planning for streetscape improvements would follow.

VII. Steve Meyer, Special Projects Manager for the H.P. Park District, gave another power point presentation on plans to revitalize Rosewood and Central Park beaches, which will include a referendum in the November 4 election for a tax rate increase of \$67 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation per home in the city. He said public meetings revealed that the environment was the top concern of residents regarding this project, and that it was designed to improve bluffs, ravines and shorelines and eliminate erosion, while reducing parking places.

VIII. In her report on the Earth Festival May 3, Amy Lohmolder said the festival took much more of her time than she had anticipated, and that any future event would depend on identifying who the key players might be, as she would not be able to do it again by herself. She estimated it would take three to four people about 10 hours a week to lay the groundwork for a festival for next year. Otherwise she would leave it up to the Park District to decide what to do.

IX. Don Miller called for a vote to amend the RNA bylaws to schedule meetings every two months instead of quarterly. Dave Wigodner made the motion, which was approved by voice vote.

X. Regarding the underutilization of Jens Jensen Park, Miller said general comments indicated that the appeal of the revitalized park did not necessarily require using it, but that everyone could still enjoy looking at it. From interviews with some of the new business owners along Roger Williams, Lynne Jungman said being able to look out across the park helped attract them to the area.

XI. Jeff Stern said there was nothing really new to report about the train station. While the city had not yet produced the screens that were planned to hide the vending machines outside, he understood that the project might be linked to TIF improvements. He reiterated his previous report that the station windows had been nailed shut as a security issue, and that more security cameras had been mounted both inside and outside the station. Jean Meier indicated she had found no parking tags available in the vending machine on two recent occasions.

XII. Under Other Business, Lynne Jungman brought up the need for a bicycle pump at the station. Stern said the issue had been brought up before, but that the city deemed it too difficult logistically to install and maintain one. Wigodner said a bike pump might be tied in with other infrastructure improvements.

XIII. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.