

Roland Park Civic League Minutes
March 5, 2014
Roland Park Presbyterian Church

Present: Chris McSherry, Michael Kwass, Ian MacFarlane, Laura Grier, Andrew Marani, Andrew Wolfe, Elisabeth Sachs, Kurt Overton, Seema Iyer, Jennifer Vey, Christy Crain, Beth Hayes, Tim Schere

Absent: Muriel Berkeley, Anne Porterfield, Paula Dube

New Business

- 1) The February 2014 minutes were approved.
- 2) The Treasurer's Report was postponed until next month.
- 3) **Board Members:** Beth Hayes is stepping down to take over as manager of the Roland Park office.
- 4) **Broadband Initiative Report:** Phil Spevak reported. They have some money now to use for marketing and see the need for a community meeting.
- 5) **Cross Keys Renovations/Redevelopment:** Chris McSherry reported that there is not an update at this time.
- 6) **BGE Update:** Linda Foy reported with assistance from BGE continues its work on a four phase project developed after the June 2012 derecho and outlined at the February 2013 RPCL meeting:
 - 1) Oakdale Road and Long Lane - upgrade completed last fall.
 - 2) Merrymount and Deepdene to Northern Pkwy – They will be feeding underground cables on Northern Pkwy to link it to Deepdene. We will start seeing that work soon, including a closure of a piece of Northern Pkwy. The expected completion date is June.
 - 3) Indian Lane and Club Road - This work will help alleviate outages on Beechdale Road. Underground lines will be part of the job. Work has started in recent weeks. Comcast and Verizon will remain on poles.
 - 4) Longwood Road- They hope to be installing underground lines where Elmwood and Longwood Roads intersect. They have gotten some pushback from neighbors about where switching equipment will go. They may need the Civic League's assistance on this front. If they can resolve access and placement issues, they hope to start the project by June. There will be planned outages to transfer to new equipment. Residents will be notified in advance.
- 7) Firefighters' Update: Captain Stephen Kowalewski reported.
 - o Fire Safety tips were distributed through the listserv:
 - o Make sure you have working smoke detectors. Crew is going out to check on residences. Call 311 to have the local firefighters come out and install one.
 - o Have a family fire escape plan. Firefighters have been working with schools to educate kids about the need for a working fire escape plan
 - o check on elderly neighbors.
 - o Have carbon monoxide detectors in your home.
 - o Keep area around furnace free of clutter and have it serviced once a year.
 - o Be safe with space heaters.
 - o Keep a medical issue/medication list and drug allergies for all residents.

- All hydrants within the district are checked every six months. Let DPW know if a hydrant is not draining. When snow is heavy, firefighters come out to inspect hydrants. Residents can sweep snow off too. DPW will also trim bushes around hydrants.

St. Georges Road Fire: Although two new hydrants, which were frozen, had been installed nearby fairly recently, the firefighters did not know about these new hydrants.

8) **Little Free Libraries:** Kathy Hudson and Laura Wexler reported.

These are tiny houses with a shelf for books on public or private spaces. The Charles Village Learning Place has them and will be donating two tiny houses to the Roland Park project. The houses are made by craftspeople with anti-graffiti paint. They will be at Linkwood Park and TKF bench on the Stony Run trail. The houses will be monitored for books and any vandalism, etc. The Roland Park Community Foundation offered funds but so far none are needed. Books are being offered by local merchants and residents. All of the relevant permits are being obtained for placement of the little houses. Staff to install the houses will have the requisite insurance coverage.

9) **Food Trucks at Poly-Western:** Chris McSherry reported.

A group from Poly-Western was seeking RPCL support for an event that would include food trucks. The Board decided to find out more specifics about the time, the music, the alcohol and whether the event would be open to the public and then vote electronically. The subsequent e-vote was to support, but the event fell through anyway.

10) **Candidate Forum:** Chris McSherry reported.

She received an email from the Medfield community association about co-sponsorship of a candidate forum about this but we decided to remain a-political.

Motion: To not co-sponsor the candidate forum. Motion approved.

Old Business

- 1) **Broadband Initiative Report:** Phil Spevak reported. They have some money now to use for marketing and see the need for a community meeting.
- 2) **Cross Keys Renovations/Redevelopment:** Chris McSherry reported that there is not an update at this time.
- 3) **Zoning Committee Report:** There were not new updates. All work sessions for specific projects are ongoing.
- 4) **Roland Avenue Paving:** Al Copp reported.
There were five bids received in December. An award has not yet been made, but the notice to proceed date is the end of April. Work is likely to begin this spring.
- 5) **Water Tower:** Al Copp reported.
The first contract will be the exterior restoration. We are getting closer to having a design contract and an engineer has already committed. We are likely to have a contract next spring. We may be a bit short on funds for the first phase but have a way to close that gap. Public money is only being used for the exterior renovation.

Two additional contracts will be the interior space and the park. There will need to be fundraising for the last two phases. The Open Space campaign yielded 250K for exterior renovations. We are approaching foundations for other phases. Right now it has been pulled out of the Open Space campaign. The City has agreed to let phases two and three be managed privately.

6) **Trolley Building:** Al Copp reported.

The building was damaged by a vehicle in the past year. The plans are completed. It will take time for the City to get the project underway.

7) **Maintenance Committee:** Andrew Marani reported.

We spent \$4000-\$5000 for lane plowing this winter.

8) **Traffic Report:** Al Copp reported.

There is still no word from the City on our request for a traffic volume/feasibility study to assess that need for "no left turn" signs on all cut-through streets from Coldspring Lane to Northern Parkway, between Falls Road and Roland Avenue, during the 7-9 a.m. "school rush hour". Al Copp continues to prod the City for a response.

9) **RPEMS Mentoring Program:** Principal Dan Hellerbach reported.

Twice monthly, RPCL members and a few others work with students on meeting their goals and other academic and/or social issues. The school hopes to have more students to participate in the fall. This project is a great support to the school.

10) **Website:**

Laura Grier still needs a co-chair.

11) **Chili Cook-Off:** 130 people and we raised \$1700. It was very fun. Thank you to Martha Marani and Kate Culotta for spearheading this event.

12) **Roland Park Place:** Roland Park Place Coordinator Bridget Fournery reported.

They are working with Rolden and Mary Pat Clarke to settle the terms of a temporary parking lot. There will be legislation, with terms agreed to by Rolden. It is temporary for two years and tied to the Rotunda construction. They also need to request a City code approval for a gravel lot.

Adjourned: 9:04 p.m.