

TRRG Board Meeting, August 3, 2017

1. Call to Order—Bonnie Poulos, at 5:17PM

2. Roll Call—Bonnie Poulos called the roll with a quorum present. Final attendance included the following Board Members: Ruth Beeker, Bill Ford, Oscar Gandy, JD Garcia, Lisa Jones, Barbara Lehmann, Tina Pacheco, Bonnie Poulos, and Kris Yarter. Joan Hall was absent.

3. Call to the Audience: none present

4. Approval of minutes of May 4, 2017—The Secretary sought approval; a motion to approve was made, seconded and was approved without opposition

5. The Treasurer's report was delayed, pending the Treasurer's arrival. The Treasurer noted that she had delivered advance copies of her report to the Chair and the Secretary. The financial report included notice of a positive balance of cash on hand (\$1,438.79). In addition to the usual ongoing expenses, the purchase of tables for Ward 6, as approved by the Board, was noted. It was also noted that there are charges for transactions delivered electronically that are deducted from the payment amount. Finally, it was noted that members have not been paying their dues routinely. Discussion explored options for increasing the payment of dues, including mailed letters to members. The Chair suggested that these options should be considered by the Membership/Outreach Committee.

6. Focus Topics. The Chair initiated review of the Focus Topics for 2017-2018; reports were to facilitate decisions about what activities were worthy of pursuit in the coming months.

a. The update from Code Enforcement (CE) was presented by Kris Yarter. The extensive report noted the high level of participation by TRRG members at a recent meeting, the central focus of which was a presentation on the status of procedures for handling weed and junked motor vehicle complaints. Kris distributed a detailed chart (Carlos De La Torre, Director of the Environmental & General Services Department was credited for the document) describing potential paths through which complaints received by CE might proceed. The discussion emphasized the use of Community Service Officers (CSOs) for specific activities. It was also suggested that the Tucson Police Department will be hiring additional community service officers to assist with the processing of complaints.

The Chair suggested that the agenda for the CE meeting in September should include completing the committee's mission statement, as well as their assessment of the status of the group, and whether the committee should move toward monitoring status. Questions during discussion of the report included expressions of concern about people who are being displaced by CE, or who are physically or financially unable to meet their responsibilities for addressing a complaint. It was noted that there are charitable organizations that help people [e.g. "lend a hand"]. It was also noted that funding for CE is not consistently available for these kinds of extended service delivery. It was suggested that perhaps monitoring efforts might include identifying the kinds of resources that are available or not in different areas of the city for different challenges for residents meeting CE requirements.

Bill Ford raised a question about how TRRG would deal with relationships between Board members. The Chair indicated that she would put that topic on the next Board agenda.

b. Ruth Beeker presented a report on the activities of the group studying Boards, Committees and Commissions (BCCs). She noted the difficulties encountered by the group with regard to their ability to get the City Clerk's office to comply with study group recommendations. It was suggested that some of the delays in compliance might be associated with the need for the city attorney to assess the legality of the recommendations. Additional difficulties appear to be related to the absence of a formal process within the Mayor and Council structure for managing these matters—instead, movement seems to depend upon commitments by individual councilmembers. The two TRRG representatives on the study group, Ruth and Colette Altaffer, recommended ways for the city to giving credit and show their appreciation to the volunteers working on these committees. Several different proposals from the Mayor and City Manager were described and discussed, including presentations before the Call to the Audience at M&C meetings, or within study sessions.

A discussion ensued about the nature of BCC reports, how they were produced, how they were delivered to the City, and the extent to which the public had access to those reports. Ruth noted that the city Website does not inform the public about the status of these committees, including where there are vacancies.

Tina Pacheco suggested that perhaps TRRG could publish these reports on our websites. She also suggested that TRRG might pursue the development of “internships” in which students might organize these BCC reports for public consumption.

JD Garcia asked if the recommendations by the study group members that have been proposed should be shared with the Board, and perhaps with the membership through the TRRG Website?

c. Ruth, Bonnie and Kris provided comments about a variety of development services issues related to Planning and Development Services Issues: Ruth, Bonnie, and Kris have particular reports to share.

*Bonnie discussed changes in the position of Zoning Examiner, following the retirement of a long time employee. Concerns about conflicts of interest have arisen as a result of hiring decisions by the City Manager's Office which placed individuals with significant personal and professional relationships with individuals and entities involved in zoning related decisions. It was clear that there are serious questions about how zoning cases ought to be handled in the future. The general sense is that there needs to be a planning committee to deal with these problems with PDSD.

*Kris spoke with regard to a proposed Forum on changes in zoning laws to be held August 30th. Councilmember Kozachik indicated that this issue that needed a meeting with neighborhoods that might be served by an open meeting for the public to understand what is happening with regard to changes in zoning statutes. The question was raised about whether this event would be co-sponsored by TRRG. As co-sponsors, TRRG would be able to promote the organization. In any event, it was generally agreed that TRRG should seek a table at the event that could be used to sign up members for the organization.

A motion was invited, proposed, seconded and approved without opposition that the Chair should be granted the right to make a determination about co-sponsorship of public events if there is not sufficient time to gather evaluations by the Board.

*Ruth distributed a document, "TRRG Board Position on PAD Zoning Procedures" related to the Unified Development Code relating to Planned Area Development (PAD) zones. The document provided history and background information about an upcoming public hearing on the 22nd and Houghton zoning debates. The document included a proposal to ask Mayor and Council to comply with an area's neighborhood plan, specifying what they need to do if they intend to change the neighborhood plan in a transparent manner. Ruth was seeking the agreement of the Board for TRRG to present a report to the M&C about the failure of the process. Ruth noted that she has been working on this issue as an individual, not as a TRRG representative. The question is whether TRRG has a role to deal with the process in general, rather than with regard to procedures followed in a particular case.

Ruth made a motion that that the statement in her document recommending procedures for Mayor and Council to follow with regard to zoning proposals in relation to an area's neighborhood plan. The Chair would present it at the September 6th City Council public hearing. That TRRG should follow up after the meeting to see what the result of our intervention is. That amendment to the motion was accepted.

Following discussion, Oscar called the question, Tina seconded. None in opposition.

The motion was approved without opposition. The Chair indicated that she would share her planned comments in advance with the Board so that members can determine if those comments match the motion that was approved.

The Chair also suggested that we need a committee and a mission statement with regard to PDS. She suggested that Ruth should organize this committee, and the membership should be informed of its development.

d. A discussion of Support/ Monitoring activities was initiated by the Chair

* Neighborhood Services Enhancement: in the wake of PDS changes, there needs to be efforts to empower community leaders to play a more active role. The Chair suggested, however, that TRRG should support the efforts of the neighborhood support network, rather than establishing a committee with that responsibility

* The Chair suggested that the UA Honors Campus Facility debate was not something that TRRG should participate in, especially because it is the UA, not the City that is the source of the difficulty being faced by the neighborhood. She suggested that TRRG can offer its support, but this is not an action item.

*The Chair reported that Sign Code regulations are being reviewed; TRRG worked on its development into a committee topic. The Chair suggested that sign code is no longer a TRRG issue, but

we should continue to monitor this process. JD Garcia suggested that there are still process considerations that we might be participants in, although the Chair suggested that this process should be left to staff, rather than making it an action item at this time.

* Transportation: Discussion turned to discussion of a motion made by Bill Ford for the Board to redraft the mission statement provided by the nascent transportation committee, Oscar made a motion to table the discussion, which was approved at the October 27 meeting of the Board.

Because of time constraints, and because the issue was almost a year old, the Chair proposed that this motion be establishment as an item for the a special meeting of the Board, for which this discussion would continue as the first item of the agenda.

Lisa moved that we have a continuation of the present meeting as a special meeting to complete the agenda for this meeting. JD seconded this meeting proposal. Bill added a recommendation that we invite interested parties, but that amendment was not accepted. The original motion for a special meeting was passed without opposition. The Chair indicated that she would poll the membership to select a date for a meeting in the near term.

Tina requested that a proposal for a newsletter to be used to inform the membership about TRRG activities, in addition to the mail chimp be included in the next meeting agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48PM