

Minutes of the Aug. 6, 2015 TRRG Quarterly Board Meeting

1. The meeting was called to order by the Ruth Beeker at 6:33PM.
2. The roll was called by Beeker and the following members were in attendance: Cecilia Cruz, Lisa Jones, Barbara Lehman, Bonnie Poulos, Kristine Yarter and Bill Ford. Oscar Gandy, Don Ijams and J.D. Garcia were excused.
3. The minutes of the meeting of May 7, 2015, as submitted by Oscar Gandy, were approved.
4. The Treasurer's Report was presented by Barbara Lehmann. The current balance is \$715.57. The total number of members is 97 and there are 26 friends of TRRG. The report was approved by the Board. The treasurer was asked to update the membership list to reflect a number of people who have moved out of the City of Tucson (COT) since the previous quarterly meeting.
5. Board members provided a series of Updates on TRRG Priorities and Involvements.
 - A. Ruth Beeker reported on the OIP-TRRG collaboration that consists of three items: "Keys to Collaboration" playbook that Rebecca Roup is heading up and that 6 TRRG members signed up to participate in; Neighborhood Service Enhancement, Rebecca Roup in charge, that 8 members signed up to assist with; and the COT Open Government Portal headed up by Leslie Ethan and that 14-16 members signed up to help with. Rebecca was reported as saying that it is hard to get committees started in the summer when people are on vacation, and she anticipates the first two groups to meet sometime in early September. Leslie is waiting to convene the third group until Information Technology (IT) gives them the go ahead with testing, probably also in September. An announcement was made that the Aug. 19, 2015 Planning Commission meeting was cancelled due to being improperly noticed. The meeting is rescheduled for Sept. 16 at which time the public hearings on the Urban Agriculture revisions to the Unified Development Code (UDC) and changes to the Flexible Lot Design (FLD) option will be held.
 - B. Bonnie Poulos reported on the activities related to a TRRG-sponsored educational forum planned to present information about the referendums on the November ballot. Discussion about logistics of the event, dates and speakers ensued. Tentative dates and locations for the two forums are Sept. 30, 2015 at the Ward 2 office and Oct. 8, 2015 at the Ward 6 office, from 6:30-8pm. These are still subject to change. Participants are being recruited and a final list will be sent out to the TRRG Board members when it is finalized. The topics to be covered are the City Charter changes, Mayor & Council salary increase and Pima County Bond proposals. Lisa Jones volunteered to help with the membership table. It was suggested that high school aged people be encouraged to attend.
 - C. Kris Yarter brought the Board up to date on the Code Enforcement Committee that held its first meeting on July 23, 2015. Don Ijams chaired the meeting and approximately 13 people attended. Minutes are posted on the TRRG website.

Kris discussed her experience in court where a property owner was responding to a code enforcement citation. She emphasized the seriousness of the penalties as outlined by the presiding judge and the assistance from the Code Enforcement (CE) personnel who attended the hearing. It was mentioned that City Attorney Roi Lusk has been assigned to look into Code Enforcement issues and that he is visiting each council office to solicit information from them about the ongoing problems with code enforcement in the city. A suggestion was made to ask Atty. Lusk and head of CE, Michael Wyneken, to update residents on progress they are making at a future TRRG meeting.

- D. Ruth Beeker reported on meetings held thus far with the Mayor and Council to share with them the information from topics A & B of the “Michael Ortega Meet TRRG” event that was held on June 21, 2015. She said that there was interest from at least 3 council members to take a hard look at the role of the Boards, Committees and Commissions (BCCs) which was one of the major items of interest to citizens who attended the event. She is still in the process of meeting with Ward 1 and possibly Wards 4 and 5, with assistance from other TRRG board members.
6. Barbara Lehman reported on the new Membership application. The new application was approved by the Board members present and will be posted to the TRRG website by Don Ijams. Lisa Jones agreed to be the Chair of the Membership Committee. She requested help from previous Board participants, Bonnie Poulos and Bill Ford. She will also contact Bill Craig to see if he will continue to participate. Lisa presented some ideas she has about soliciting new members.
7. Ruth Beeker, on behalf of JD Garcia, presented the request for TRRG to examine the Mayor and Council selection of speakers at Public Hearings. She asked that it be expanded to selection of speakers for Mayor and Council Study Session as well as Calls to the Audience for them and other committees. Discussion took place about the pros and cons of how the process currently works. The Board members voted to ask the subcommittee to study the selection of speakers at public meetings as well as study sessions and calls to the audience.
8. There was no one wishing to speak at the Call-to-the-Audience.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

The minutes are respectfully submitted by Bonnie Poulos on behalf of the Secretary