

MINUTES: TRRG Board of Directors Meeting
August 7, 2014, 6:30-8:30 P.M.
Ward 6 Office East Room 3202 E. First Street

Attendance: Ruth Beeker, chair TRRG; Bonnie Poulos, vice-chair TRRG; Barbara Lehman, treasurer TRRG; Bill Ford, TRRG Board member; Lisa Jones, TRRG Board member; Oscar Gandy, Ward 6 resident; Kris Yartur, vice-president Garden District NA; Ted Prezelski, Ward 2 office.

- I. Treasurer's Report --Barbara Lehmann reported that we have \$616.07 in the bank. She also reported that we have 70 members and 11 friends.
- II. Membership/Friends Initiatives—Lisa Jones, Bonnie Poulos and Bill Ford reported on the subcommittee meeting held 8/0/1/14.
 - a. Master plan for membership drive – The subcommittee emphasized the importance of having brochures to hand out and in pointing out the “We Believe” statement during our membership drive. TRRG should set a goal for how many members we think we need by what date so we have something to work towards. With only three of us on the subcommittee, we could start on getting current information on the Neighborhood Associations so we can contact them about TRRG. We really need more volunteers for a speaker's board who will attend meetings. Six people at a minimum. Other strategies were discussed including throwing out a challenge to current members to get one or 2 new members by a certain date and pointing out our success in getting the Council to address what qualities a City Manager should possess. Kris volunteered to present TRRG at the Garden District NA meeting.
 - b. Local Matters taping – Ruth was the representative for TRRG, Lisa did the taping. The interview is shown on Channel 12 and is 15 min long. TRRG would like copies to be made and will ask Don Ijams if he will post the video on the Neighborhood Support Network (NSN) website so other NA websites can provide a link to it. Mention was made for creating TRRG publicity in the form of buttons or a card that hangs from a lanyard to offer to members for events that they may attend. Lisa and Ruth both know persons who might be willing to help with making them.
 - c. Report on OIP event, “Historic Buildings, Livable Cities, and Local Economies” – Lisa attended the meeting and talked about some of the speakers and topics. She thought the presentations were very good. There is information about different aspects of historic preservation at the city's website at <http://oip.tucsonaz.gov/historic-preservation>. Mention was made of a comment by one presenter that “the greenest buildings are already built”. Bill brought up the bureaucratic nightmare involved with redevelopment (adaptive reuse) in historic areas in the city as an impediment to working on existing buildings.
 - d. Invitation to Ward 3 Neighbors Alliance, Aug 20, 6-8 P.M. Wood Library, 3455 N. First Ave. – Ruth will be attending to present information about TRRG and Barbara will be there to assist her and have membership applications and brochures to hand out.

Discussion was made about showing the Local Matters video, but it was decided to keep it simple with a message board and Ruth's live presentation.

- III. Policy for handling requests for endorsement, links, posts on TRRG website—Lisa reported that she and JD Garcia are planning to meet to hammer out a draft policy concerning how TRRG will deal with such requests. She felt that they would be ready to present about it at the next meeting of the Board in November. Requests have already come in from such worthy organizations and events as the Historic Buildings meeting, the Bus Riders Union, Anita Fonte's Happiness blog. We need a policy that can be referred to when such requests come in. Some of the requests are clearly more appropriate for the NSN website, but others are more difficult to weigh in light of our objective to stay focused on how to improve our government.
- IV. Update on City Manager/City Charter Initiatives—Ruth Beeker and Bonnie Poulos discussed the following:
 - a. C/M office visit – Ruth and Mike Hayes visited all of the Mayor and Council (M&C) offices to tell them about TRRG and give them our position paper on the qualities we would like to see in a City Manager. The personalities, the interest and the reaction were widely varied among the M&C. They made a point of being clear that TRRG is one group of stakeholders (i.e., residents) that have not been properly represented before. With regard to being involved in the search for a new city manager, the City is planning some events for the public: early September M&C will hold a forum where the public can express their opinions about the city manager's role and qualities; the interview process will then take place over a 2-3 month period with M&C involved in choosing three finalists; after that an informal event is planned to meet the finalists (although this format is still in discussion to determine if the public will have a chance to provide feedback after hearing from the candidates). The citizens interview panel appointed by M&C will have 14 people on it and there will also be separate interviews by selected city staff; the panels will provide written feedback to the council about the candidates. It is hoped that the citizens interview panel will meet beforehand for "training" and be given information about the candidates before they do the interviews.
 - b. Charter committee – Bonnie was appointed to the Charter Review Committee by Councilmember Uhlich. She will report back to TRRG, but she is not TRRG's representative on the committee. Ruth will attend at least the first meeting, scheduled for Aug. 14, 4-7pm at Mayor and Council chambers, since Bonnie is unable to make it.
 - c. Special Meeting on Saturday, Sept. 27, 1-4P.M. Big Room, Ward 6 with special guest, Interim City Manager, Martha Durkin – Ruth is making the arrangements for this special TRRG meeting. It is intended as a two-part educational forum with the first half, a "conversation" between Ruth and Martha, with written questions from the attendees and, after a short break, the second half, a presentation by Colette Altaffer (Neighborhood Infill Coalition) and Bonnie about the City Charter and the review process. Bill Ford took on the job of contacting Andrew Greenhill, the assistant to the City Manager who oversees Channel 12, to get Channel 12 to video tape this special meeting. Logistics for the meeting will be essentially as they were for the previous

special meeting: Ruth responsible for materials, program format, Barbara at the membership table, Lisa at the sign-in table, and Bonnie, JD and Bill responsible for refreshments, name tags and getting the room set up. We do not know how many are attending (no RSVP) and if Joan Hall gets some publicity about the event we may have more than previous meetings.

- V. Code Enforcement Concerns/process improvements—Kris Yartur, TRRG member, discussed meeting with the interim head of code enforcement, Michael Wynekin, and offering to help out (with Lois Pawlik) with code enforcement issues. Things that we would like to know is how we can be notified of vacancies in positions that directly affect residents (such as this position), how long the process will take to get a new, permanent director, whether citizens can nominate a “Subject Matter Expert” (SME) to the interview panel for the Code Enforcement Director position, and whether there can be a written protocol for including a city resident on interview panels for select department heads (those who will have direct interaction with citizens on a regular basis).
- VI. Need to add Board members – Ruth asked if Kris will consider being a TRRG Board member. She is already very helpful and we would like to nominate her to the board. Kris said she would consider it.
- VII. Call-to-the-Audience – no one asked to speak at the call to the audience.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Poulos

TRRG vice-president