

## **Minutes of the TRRG Board, October 27, 2016**

The Chair, Ruth Beeker called the meeting to order at 5PM.

The following members were in attendance: Ruth Beeker, Bonnie Poulos, Oscar Gandy, Barbara Lehmann, Kristine Yarter, Lisa Jones, Donald Ijams, Mark Homan, JD Garcia, William Ford.

The minutes of the August 2, 2016 meeting of the Board were approved.

The Treasurer's report from Barbara Lehmann indicated that there was \$1393.45 in the TRRG account. There were currently 108 members and 31 friends.

There were no visitors, and therefore, no call to the audience.

### **Committee Update Reports:**

#### *Task Force on Public Participation:*

JD Garcia presented a report on The Task Force on Public Participation in M&C Meetings. He noted that he had distributed copies of the previous report of the Task Force. The report included reference to the history of the Task Force, its authorization, and its periodic reports to the Board. He noted the related studies and interviews with members of Council and the Mayor to discuss recommendations proposed for improvement of the M&C process that were also included in the report. He noted the special efforts Council member Steve Kozachik to support the initiative, including placing a discussion of the recommendations on the agenda of study session. That session was continued to allow the Task Force to complete interviews with the Mayor and additional council members to assess their support for the Task Force recommendations. He reported that there was very little support for changes in the rules. Several were likely to support the state law regarding access to public meetings. He noted the city attorney's initial resistance to Task Force proposals, which he suggested had decreased somewhat. Recommended changes to the Mayor and Council Rules and Regulations are expected to be pursued by Council member Kozachik, beginning with the City Manager and City Clerk. If that path is unsuccessful, it is likely to be pursued through the route of a study session. It was noted that the council member was not in favor of all the recommendations, but would forward them nevertheless.

Ruth Beeker expressed appreciation for the work of the Task Force.

Bonnie Poulos noted an example from Phoenix where committee members sought review from the Arizona Attorney General regarding misapplication of the Arizona Open Meetings Law (OML) to actually limit communications among members of Boards, Committees and Commissions (BCCs). Following discussion of the value and possibility of inviting a representative from the Attorney Generals (AG) Office to come to Tucson and provide an educational program for residents to inform them about proper administration of the OML, especially as it relates to BCCs.

**A motion was made** by Bonnie Poulos that was properly seconded that TRRG hold a public workshop within the next six months with a representative from the AG's Office. **The motion passed with unanimous consent.**

It was recommended that it would be important to have the AG “notice” the event as an official activity of the office. Bonnie agreed to organize this special meeting.

Ruth offered the appreciation of the Board for the work of the Task Force and asked if the Board wanted to wish to continue the work of this Task Force. Discussion continued and it was suggested that the planning for the proposed workshop might serve as a basis for involving additional members of in the area of public participation.

*Transportation Planning Committee (TPC):*

Don Ijams provided the report on behalf of the group. He noted the popularity of the topic. Three planning meetings focused on the task of deciding how this emotional issue could be pursued under the TRRG umbrella. He noted that several issues had been raised by the development of the group; its membership, the nature of their involvement in the group's activities. These included issues on the agenda of the Bylaws Committee. Don suggested that this is the first time that TRRG has received a statement of purpose from one its committees. The draft statement of purpose had been delivered to the Board via email on the 26th of October.

Bill Ford noted that this committee statement raises important issues about whether TRRG is a "positional" or “process” oriented group. It becomes an important political issue with regard to how we define our approach to transportation planning. He identified "measureability" as a primary concern of committee members who also involved in the planning for the recent Broadway widening. He offered additional recommendations for editing the committee's proposal.

Don, invited other members of the TPC to share their opinions regarding the purpose document. Mark Homan spoke in support of the statement that had been submitted, noting that it was the product of considerable discussion and compromise. As the discussion continued, Ruth expressed her opposition to the use of the term "word smithing" in relation to the proposed modifications of the proposed statement. Discussion continued with expressions of opposition and support. In response to questions about the activities the Committee was likely to pursue, several members of the Board who were also members of the committee described many of the items suggested during a brainstorming session. A question was raised about whether the Board should send the statement back to the committee suggesting revisions.

Bill Ford introduced a motion for the Board to redraft the statement. Discussion followed, including the recommendation that the draft be sent back to the committee with suggestions for its revision.

Oscar Gandy made a **Motion to Table** the discussion of the committee's statement. It was duly seconded, and passed by a majority vote.

*Neighborhood Service Enhancements (NSE):*

Don Ijams made a brief report on Neighborhood service enhancements. He reported on the activities of several city staff, including Rouppe, Flores, Stabler, and Anderson designed to support neighborhood functioning. He described several training sessions he provided on setting up a website for a neighborhood association that had two sessions. He also noted a workshop to be held on the 5th of November on conflict resolution.

Ruth described other activities related to neighborhood support with reference to OIP and its concerns about neighborhoods. It was noted that PDSO will become an important site for the pursuit of concerns about neighborhoods and associations. This made it important to attend to the department's hiring process.

*Bylaws Committee:*

Oscar Gandy reported on behalf of the committee. Made reference to the edited copy or work completed to date, and emphasized the areas in which the committee had been unable to come to an agreement. These included questions about issues related to membership, status, and rights; notice for face-to-face, versus electronic "meetings" of the Board, and the nature of standing and ad hoc committees.

He noted that because these proposed revisions were substantial, this process was clearly a Revision rather than a simple Amendment of the Bylaws. This means that the revised document will need to be presented to the membership at the annual meeting at two months prior to that meeting. This means that the board would have to approve this revision the February 2nd meeting of the Board. The special meeting of the Membership to approve the Bylaws need not be lengthy, even though that meeting should be dedicated specifically to that process.

Barbara Lehmann noted a proposed application for 5013c must include the revised bylaws.

Ruth noted that because this process of Board approval may require more than one meeting before February, If the members agreed, Oscar would be directed to identify dates and times for these meetings. **It was agreed** that an initial meeting should be scheduled a month from now.

*Visit by Michael Ortega:*

Ruth noted that Michael Ortega, the City Manager, was willing to return to TRRG. During discussion, it was noted that the Board had too many items on its agenda of work for us to schedule another important meeting during this time period. Let's accept Mike's willingness to come on Saturday in January. Lisa reminds us that we have a lot of work to do, such a

meeting might not be a good idea with all the work we have on the agenda. Bonnie agrees that we have too much to do; perhaps have him come to the Annual Meeting.

Question of the special meeting of the membership need not be a long meeting. They will just approve.

Oscar sought clarification of the status of our decision regarding the Transportation Planning Committee; It was agreed that our decision was to table discussion on the committee, not the committees developmental status.

Ruth asked about the Board's pleasure with regard to the quarterly meeting tentatively scheduled for the 2nd of February. Following a poll of the membership, that meeting date was confirmed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Oscar Gandy, Secretary