

## **TRRG Annual Meeting, April 28, 2018**

The Annual Meeting was by begun by Bonnie Poulos at 12:37. She welcomed the audience, and identified the members of the Board in attendance: Ruth Beeker, Oscar Gandy, JD Garcia, Joan Hall, Lisa Jones, Barbara Lehmann, Tina Pacheco, and Kris Yarter.

Bonnie opened the Business Meeting with the treasurer's report from Barbara Lehman.

1. Barbara reported that TRRG had \$1,073.34 on hand. She indicated that organizational expenses were minimal, although the rental of the PO Box was a continually rising expense. Web hosting, on the other hand, was a steady expense, with the added benefit of Don Ijams' support with website management.

As treasurer, Barbara was in position to discuss the status of TRRG membership, beginning with 83 new members in 2014. She noted variations in the numbers of new members added each year, but with the community outreach this year associated with concerns about neighborhood plans, we attracted an additional 18 members, increasing the total to 129.

2. Kris Yarter coordinated the Board of Directors Election, with nominations managed by Kris and Ruth Beeker. She presented the list of nominees Cecelia Cruz, JD Garcia, Barbara Lehmann, Tina Pacheco, and Bonnie Poulos. She invited the audience to accept the proposed slate as a unit, which was accepted by the audience with a show of hands. There was no opposition to the slate of nominees, and all were added as members of the Board.

3. Bonnie introduced the set of TRRG focus topics to be discussed.

A. Kris Yarter presented the Code Enforcement (CE) report with the aid of PowerPoint slides. She noted that the because of the level of success the committee had in the past year, due in part to committee members appointments to active committees or boards of the City, the committee's status has been changed from that of an active focus, to that of a monitoring committee. Kris noted that Code Enforcement monitoring activities would be informed by member's involvement in additional activities, such as Environmental Services (ES) Waste Diversion, well served by Margo Garcia's role as chair of that committee, and the receipt of regular updates from Rick Saldate.

Kris also noted that Community Services Officers (CSOs) have completed trained and have begun work in the field. She noted areas of considerable success as well as a few areas that were not as yet successful. Her general sense was that these CSOs will provide important support for CE, including equipment operator/drivers, noting that several working crews have been established, including those utilizing Homeless Work Program members.

Kris also noted that illegal dumping cases, etc. now have the added benefit specific rules of procedure. She did note, however, that much of this this additional activity is quite expensive, and there are concerns about funding, perhaps adding the expenses for graffiti abatement to the fees consumers pay for trash collection. Questions were raised concerning the legality of that sort of budgetary adjustment.

Kris also provided some statistics about cases and their status, noting that apparent declines in the number of cases may be the result of changes in the case designations. She noted that CE did receive equipment from ES that they find useful. She also noted a general sense that CE has a judge with an understanding of and a commitment to the management of code cases. However, Kris still felt that we need the judge to be “tougher” on repeat offenders. She also noted that there are still only 12 code inspectors, a comparatively small number. [Kris indicated that she will submit her data to Joan Hall for inclusion in a Facebook summary of the CE status report.] Numerous questions from the audience suggest that CE is very important to the membership. In particular, comments suggest that there are changes needed with regard to differences in codes related to “rights of way” and those that apply to private property.

B. Colette Altaffer reported on progress made in improving the City’s communications and treatment of Boards, Committees and Commissions (BCCs). Colette noted that part of the success of the group effort was to have periodic reports from BCCs made to the M&C at their meetings and to move BCC appointments to the beginning of the meeting. These changes in visibility were expected to increase the status of these groups as an important component of the city management function. Colette noted that suggestions had also been made to improve the City Clerk’s website with regard to information about BCCs, and she added that they have begun to make some improvements in this informational resource. They also improved the handbook for the BCCs.

Colette indicated that continued activity of this group would involve seeking an improvement in the media materials that would be used to inform the public about open meeting laws and other areas of City communication functioning. She noted that several other recommendations have been made to improve the operation of these BCCs. A comment from the floor indicated that many of BCCs that had been scheduled to present have not actually made those presentations. It was suggested that one likely explanation was that the Clerk’s Office probably has not been informing these people in a timely fashion about their place on the schedule and what they might need to do in order to make a useful presentation. This comment was followed by others that expressed general sense that the City Clerk was not supportive of the goal of making BCCs more functional. Part of the difficulty seems to be that the Clerk is supervised by City Council Members, rather than the City Manager.

C. Ruth Beeker reported on the Planning and Development Services Committee (PDS) activities. This committee’s attention and energy has become focused on the problems related to the presence or absence of a regular zoning examiner as a member of City staff. Having contract employees in this role is not considered to be an effective response, especially with regard to the potential for conflicts of interest for examiners because of their professional and personal involvement with planners and developers. Ruth noted that finally, in response to TRRG pressure, a decision was made to hire a part-time zoning examiner. Unfortunately, the city has not yet hired an examiner, although the effort continues.

Ruth then described the need for the city to review neighborhood plans and land use decisions, noting how TRRG has mobilized the community to begin the process of reviewing and evaluating these plans. She described several special events that TRRG has organized to inform and engage representatives of neighborhoods in the process of review and self-assessment. She

described the work that went into preparing neighborhoods to do their own self-assessments. Ruth's report included a slideshow featuring very well attended events designed to share information about the process as well as about each participant neighborhood's plan. She noted the special quality of support received organizing these meetings, noting the special contributions made by Rebecca Roupp and Daniel Bursuck to their success. Ruth identified the stages through which this initiative will go, noting the effort, now called "Sustainable Neighborhoods through Planning," seem likely to be the primary focus of TRRG activities for the coming year.