

TRRG Board Members Quarterly Meeting MINUTES  
November 1, 2018

1. Call to Order: Meeting started at 5:35 pm
2. Roll Call: JD Garcia, Ruth Beeker, Kris Yarter, Barbara Lehmann and Bonnie Poulos were present.
3. Approval of Minutes of August 2, 2018: Accepted without revision (Beeker/Lehmann). They will be posted to the TRRG website.
4. Set schedule for next TRRG meetings: Ward 6 room reservations for next 6 months takes place starting Nov. 27. Next two quarterly meetings will be on Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019 and Thursday, May 2, 2019, both from 5:30-7:30 pm. Chair will request these two dates for East (or West) meeting room. The annual meeting will be Saturday, April 27, 2019, from 12:15 to 3:30 pm. Chair will request that date from 11:00-4:00 pm (for set up and clean up) for main meeting room and East meeting room. Discussion of agenda for annual meeting (item 7b on agenda) took place at this time. Business meeting will be first on the agenda and scheduled for approx. 30 min. Following the business meeting, Chair will request if the new directors of City Parks and Rec Dept (Brent Dennis) and City Transportation Dept (Diana Alarcon) will speak to us about their goals for the future of their departments. We will also ask if the City Manager (Michael Ortega) will make the introductions. The Chair will compose a letter to the CM with our suggestion, so we can get them scheduled for the annual meeting. It was requested that we make a serious effort to enlist two members of TRRG to run for the Board at this annual meeting. We need leaders who are dedicated to our mission and willing to help us continue to move forward as an organization. None of the current Board members are up for re-election this year.
5. Treasurer's Report: Barbara Lehmann reported that we have \$1, 312.81\*\* in our checking account and \$50.31 in our savings account at Hughes Fed Credit Union. She has some questions about PayPal payments and will report back to the Chair when she finds out whether there is an issue with payments being deposited into our account. Her books balance with the credit union's statements which indicates that the PayPal account is working but she will follow-up with them anyway. It was mentioned that in-kind donations by members has added significantly to our ability to provide printed materials and food for the TRRG events that are not reflected in our bank balance. Barbara also presented the Board with a spreadsheet of members that indicates when they joined TRRG and when dues were paid. The spreadsheet covers 5 annual years, starting with 2014-2015. This year (2018-2019) we have already signed up as many new members (26) as in the previous 4 years combined. TRRG membership is now at 136 members with 59 of them having paid dues this year. It was requested that we make a more concerted effort to get members to renew their \$10 per year dues so that we can continue to put on forums and events that educate and inform. The Chair agreed to call a meeting of the

Membership/Outreach committee to address this need (Board members Joan Hall and Barbara Lehmann have agreed to help).

\*\*\*Note: \$170.87 was still in PayPal account. Barbara transferred those funds to our checking account on 11/04/18 for a new balance of \$1,483.68 in checking.

## 6. Committee Reports and Business

- a. BCC's update: Ruth Beeker reported on the progress of the BCC endeavor. A new employee in the City Manager's office, Ann Chanecka, is interested in addressing the incomplete items that were part of the City Manger's task force. The pressing items that still need to completed are i) publicizing of BCC vacancies, ii) what to do about the generalized appointments that are approved by the entire Mayor and Council but which no one has responsibility for finding candidates, and iii) how to improve annual reports by BCCs to Mayor and Council using follow-up reminders and other means. Ruth, as a member of the BCC task force, will follow-up with Ms. Chanecka as soon as other projects taper off.
- b. Code Enforcement update: Kris Yarter reported on some good news from Code Enforcement (CE). A problem property in the Garden District for 20 years was finally met with a significant fine by the Judge (Thaddeus Semon), the largest that CE has ever seen. Kris emphasized how very important it is for neighbors who file complaints about problem properties to attend the magistrate hearings or to send a letter that can be read into the record, and to obtain letters of support from others in the neighborhood. If the judge does not hear from those most affected by the problem properties, then the decisions are often in favor of the property owner. She attends many of the hearings (Tuesday mornings from 8 am to noon in courtroom #12) along with Laurie Pumphries from CE so that the judge can hear from all sides of the enforcement issue. A discussion ensued about the opportunity for another TRRG community forum on CE sometime after the annual meeting in April. Kris will work on a format that may include information from the other side of the bench about what makes an impact in deciding code enforcement of problem properties, especially ones that have a long history of issues.
- c. Transportation issues: JD Garcia reported on work that he and Oscar Gandy have been working on with respect to communication with the Dept of Transportation (DOT). They have come up with a survey that they would like to present to the new DOT director, Diana Alarcon, to submit to the BCCs that work on transportation-related issues (there are at least 5 of them). It will focus on how to improve communication between DOT and the community.
- d. PDS update: Ruth Beeker reported on the two aspects that this committee is working on. They are monitoring the new Zoning Examiner to assess how reports address the views of those who testify at the public hearings. Colette Altaffer, Joan Hall and Ruth worked on a monitoring form that they are using to assess specific cases that come before the Zoning Examiner. Ruth reported that the City hired past Zoning Examiner, Peter Gavin, to mentor the new Examiner as he transitions into the position. The PDS

committee is also assisting with the TRRG Initiative on Sustainable Neighborhoods Through Planning.

- e. Update of TRRRG Initiative on Sustainable Neighborhoods: Ruth Beeker continued her report by bringing the Board up to date with the agenda for the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting to be held on Monday, Nov. 5, 6-8 pm, in the Sentinel building. She presented information on the number of neighborhood associations that have participated and the number of plans that are being examined through this initiative. The exciting part of this next meeting are the special speakers who have been asked to address the “Ideas Too Good To Lose” topics of Environment (Irene Ogata), Office/Commercial Development (Peter Gavin), and Preservation of Neighborhood Residential Character (Dante Archangeli). After this meeting, it is envisioned that PDS staff will take up the logistics of how to engage the neighborhood associations with updating their plans or creating new ones, and in bringing forward some of the ideas for the next general plan.
7. Upcoming meetings involving TRRG
    - a. Sustainable Neighborhoods through Planning meeting – Nov. 5, 2018: this was discussed as part of Ruth Beeker’s report during item # 6e on the agenda.
    - b. Ideas for next annual meeting in April 2019: this was discussed as part of item #4 on the agenda.
  8. Call-to-the-Audience: no one present to speak.
  9. Adjournment: meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Poulos, TRRG Chair