

**Roosevelt Island Residents Association
Common Council Meeting, Wednesday, March 7, 2012
Minutes for February 1, 2012 Meeting**

1. Public Access – 8:15 p.m.

Miranda Murray – RI Public Library – announced several programs:

Sat., 2/18, 2pm - Real Fake Counterfeiting

Friday mornings – 10:30 a.m. Computer Classes: 2/10 – Intro to Email; 2/17 – Intro to WORD; 2/24 – Intro to the Internet

Hamburger asked if there was any news on Library upgrade. Response: No

Chirivas – what can the community do? Response: Nothing to do at this point

Janet Falk – RICLA Executive Director – Concerned about rumor that Child School and David Kramer are near agreement for 504 Main Street second floor; concern with compatibility of dance center above where Library will be; Kramer will not consider upstairs space as a shared space for Island organizations and individuals. She is wondering if there has been any communication between RIRA and Kramer.

Hamburger: Community Advisory sub-committee on Retail Stores will deal with Hudson-Related.

Raye Schwartz – Resident - very concerned with Walgreen's ownership of DuaneReade and its dropping several of the drug plans it used to honor, leaving Island residents without alternatives. Gristedes Pharmacy covers plans, but has limited shelf space and is too small to take on those with the dropped coverage. It will create a major loss of service for many residents on the Island. Farance confirmed her information and agreed with her assessment.

Linda Jones-Janneh – Community Liaison, Manhattan D.A.'s office - handed out ID Theft brochure with a hotline number for anyone who suspects or knows that they have become a victim of IT theft. She also mentioned scams taking place with callers asking for donations who present themselves as either members of or collecting for Uniformed Services. Farance noted that the 114th Pct. is "useless" in taking identity theft statements.

Regular Meeting called to order at 8:30pm:

2. Roll Call: Quorum achieved (23 present). S. Silverstein has resigned from the Council.

3. Approval of 2/1/12 Amended Agenda*: **Motion-Chirivas, Second-Helstien; Approved by acclamation.** *Adding reinstatement of Vini Fortuna, and interim appointments for two Southtown seats.

Fortuna – somewhat dismayed at the shortage of volunteers to help with the RIRA website and calendaring duties. Sees his position as important but needs help. **VOTE to reinstate Fortuna, Seconded, Approved by acclamation;**

Aaron Hamburger presented two new members to fill vacant Southtown seats:

Ann Biddlecom - 425 MS; works at U.N. in research on population & family planning trends and serves as Secretary and Treasurer for a professional association, Population Scientists;

Approved by acclamation.

Trevre Andrews - 405 MS; a geologist and geophysicist, who is interested in parliamentary procedure for which he has taught classes for kids. He is also interested in technology and will see where his skills might be most useful and needed. **Approved by acclamation.**

4. Approval of 1/4/12 Minutes: Motion-Shinozaki; Second Atkins; Approved by acclamation.

5. Treasurer's Report – written

Current Checking balance: \$5,234.77; LAFC: \$1,222.27; MTG: \$143.99. Total Assets: \$6,601.03.

6. President's Report –

- Resolution to congratulate Dr. Jack Resnick on his inclusion in a federal panel on health care was conveyed to him;
- Common Council colleague, Denise Shull has written a book, "Market Mind Games-A Radical Psychology of Investing, Trading, and Risk". Denise will hold a book reading/signing at Gallery RIVAA, Sunday, February 12 at 4pm.
- We have eight candidates for nomination to the RIOC Board of Directors who will be presented to the community at the Candidates' Night event. RIRA councilors should bring pointed questions based on your knowledge of Island issues for the campaigners.
- With less than a week until Election Day, RIRA has been required to spend considerably less money than anticipated to mount this election because costs were covered by other sources, especially the Maple Tree Group Treasury, soon to be depleted. Thanks to Tad Sudol and to RIRA Councilor Frank Farance for printing various signage. Thanks to building managers and residents for coordinating door drops in the WIRE buildings. A special thanks to Ashton Barfield, who has covered the total cost of printing ballots and accumulating supplies for Election Day. Remaining copying and peripheral costs will be covered by RIRA with totals likely to be available by the next meeting.
- With fiscal needs met we are still in need of staffing for the polls. Voting in October to mount this election, the caveat was added by the RIRA President that no one should vote in favor of producing a February 7 election unless he or she was intending to donate the requisite hours to make it happen. The vote, 23-0 (2 abstentions) meant that 23 councilors should have volunteered some time. This has yet to happen. Councilors can volunteer time at the polls either before or after your work/school day. If you've already volunteered, please extend the time offered to make up for our shortfall. Residents have stepped up to help us but we must lead the way. Speak with Ashton either now or after our meeting adjourns. The Common Council needs to produce as successful an election as is possible.

7. Committee Reports –

Island Services: Chair, Hamburger – Motion to establish a retail advisory committee (No Second required). Amendment approved to eliminate "but operate outside of RIRA;" Amendment approved to eliminate "a maximum of 15 members including".

Motion: That the Island Services Committee's (ISC) Main Street Retail Stores Task Force be transferred and expanded to a Main Street Retail Stores Advisory Committee (AC-MSRS) to deal with Hudson-Related on issues. The AC-MSRS should have representatives from the present retail stores and commercial interests, the RIRA Common Council and from other interested Roosevelt Island residents. The AC-MSRS will be a sub-committee of the ISC. The Committee members will be recruited by the ISC who will be charged with obtaining a diverse group representing all segments of Roosevelt Island interests in the Retail Stores developments." **Vote: 20Y, 2N, 2A;**
Motion approved. Fred Plastino to act as interim Chair of this sub-committee.

Planning: Chair, Farance – Written report; projects being updated;

- **Silicon Island** sub-committee - Marcus elected unanimously as Chair – Marcus has spoken with Pete Krokondelis representing Cornell, with regard to setting up meetings with RI leaders. The Cornell/Technion-sponsored Town Meeting is scheduled for April 5.

Public Safety: Chair, Feely-Nahem – No report; next meeting Feb. 21 at 546 Main St.; mentoring program anticipated; recreational program spearheaded by Romano Reid is going very well; well attended. RIOC board members are interested in this program as well.

Social, Cultural and Educational Services: Chair, Shinozaki – No meeting, no report.

Communications: Chair, Fortuna – Actively seeking volunteers to help with various tech aspects of keeping the RIRA website current and running and help with community calendaring.

Government Relations/MTG sub-committee: E. Polivy – no meeting; Ashton Barfield; intends to reconsider amending 1984 RIOC legislation.

Housing: Chair, Chirivas – no report

Constitutional Committee: Chair, Evans – No report

8. Old Business – None

9. New Business – None

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherie Helstien, Secretary