

**Roosevelt Island Residents Association  
Common Council Meeting, Wednesday, October 3, 2012  
Minutes for September 6, 2012 Meeting**

**1. Public Access – 8:07 p.m. – No Speakers**

**Regular Meeting called to order at 8:07 p.m.:**

- 2. Roll Call:** Quorum achieved (23 present).
- 3. Approval of Agenda:** Hamburger asked to add the question of an increase of Public Purpose Funding to New Business; Moved and seconded; Approval by acclamation to amend the Agenda. **Agenda approved by acclamation.**
- 4. Approval of June 6, 2012 amended Minutes: Moved: Lyon, Second: Escobar; Approved by acclamation.**
- 5. Treasurer's Report – written**  
Current checking balance: \$9884.09; LAFC: \$1,222.27; RIRA assets total \$11,106.36. No bank fees charged.
- 6. President's Report –**
  - Welcome back to the Council from summer break.
  - Congratulations to RIRA Treasurer, Russell Fields, on the birth of his first grand-child, Eli Fields, on August 16.
    - RIOC honored it's commitment to RIRA, given our administration of the Public Purpose Fund allocations, to support our elections, especially the rental of election machines every two years. To that end, RIRA received a RIOC check for \$5,000 last June. The election machine company has been alerted that we will require their services once again this November.
    - In this meeting, the Common Council will elect chairs of two committees; Nominations and Elections, who will lead RIRA, over the next eight weeks, to our first combined RIRA councilors and RIOC directors elections on November 6. Nominations for both organizations will open October 1 and close on October 21. Several key meetings have been scheduled to expedite the process as follows: a *Q&A* for potential candidates on September 13 (in the Westview lower community room at 7:30), a *Candidates' Orientation* on October 22 after nominations close, and a *Candidates' Night* to meet the RIRA presidential and vice-presidential contenders plus the RIOC Board nominees on October 29. Katz encouraged current Council members to run to retain their seats or to take on the two top RIRA jobs. Katz reminded the Council that the RIOC Board election will seek to fill three seats that expire in 2013: those of Dr. Kathie Grimm, Michael Shinozaki, and Margie Smith. The intention of these directors with regard to running for re-election is currently unknown. To run for one of these seats, in which there is no guarantee of appointment, indicates a level of commitment Islanders have to our home and to representative democracy.
    - Katz noted that, for the coming Presidential election, he and Helstien would be taking a Saturday to travel to Pennsylvania to knock on doors for their choice for president and urged his colleagues to get involved.
    - Katz announced that during the Public Session we expected to hear from Roosevelt Island Community Coalition co-chair, Jonathan Kalkin, but he was unable to make this meeting. A discussion, debate and vote on whether to align RIRA with the Coalition as we move forward is on the Agenda, to be led by Ellen Polivy, RIRA VP and Coalition co-chair and Susan Marcus, chair of the RIRA Silicon Island sub-committee. Katz is bringing this to a vote in this second-to-last full meeting of our term because this Common Council has been a part of the discussion and we should be the ones to decide, at least in the short term, whether this Coalition should speak on

our behalf and for this residential community with Cornell. Katz congratulated the Coalition for the work they've done and looks forward to shedding some light on their efforts.

- Katz reminded the Council, that Cornell has been waiting patiently to talk to the entire RIRA Common Council. Cornell's public relations firm, Kasirer Consulting, has been represented by Pete Krokondelas since Cornell was chosen by the City to build here, who has asked to address the Council during our Public Session at our next and last meeting on October 3. This will be an opportunity for us to ask Pete questions in an open forum and, perhaps, to focus the relationship prior to RIRA reinventing itself in November.

## 7. Committee Reports –

**Planning:** Chair, Farance – no meeting.

***Silicon Island sub-Committee*** – S. Marcus – Written report submitted

***Roosevelt Island Community Coalition Committee (RICC)*** – Polivy – Oral report

- Reviewed the time line for *RICC to meet "in the next few weeks" with Cathy Dove, of Cornell, or by October 1*; Cornell documents must be finalized by October 31, CB8 land use process begins the ULURP process during which there is a 60 day public comment period. CB8 is trying to work with the community.
- RICC has, so far, gotten 28 organizations to sign on (no names were released); they will soon have their by-laws in place and formally elect their Chair and other officers.  
Farance asked if RIRA would be signing RICC's pledge of allegiance; not necessary as RIRA is only voting to agree to become part of the organization on the contingency that we will see more and better organization from their leadership.  
Escobar noted that there is a draft of the RICC By-Laws currently being written.
- **MOTION: To join the organization currently known as the "Roosevelt Island Community Coalition" or RICC, and to negotiate a community benefit agreement with Cornell/Technion on graduate facility development, academic operations and general campus considerations on behalf of this residential community through this avenue. Presented and Moved, Helstien; Seconded, Escobar; VOTE: 22Y, 2N, 1A. Motion passes.**

**Government Relations/MTG sub-committee:** Chair, E. Polivy; deferred to Ashton Barfield on up-coming elections and process

***Ashton Barfield, Democracy/MTG sub-Committees Upcoming Elections:***

- ***Election of Nominations Committee Chair***, Aaron Hamburger, nominated by self, seconded, Helstien, **electd by acclamation**;
- ***Election of Election Committee Chair***, Ann Biddlecom and Mark Lyon, nominated as co-chairs: Helstien, seconded: ?; **electd by acclamation**.
- Barfield passed out the "election jobs form" to all Council members in attendance, to decide where they will be volunteering. They were asked to contact the respective chairs of the Nominations, Election Committees and Helstien as head of publicity.

**Housing:** Chair, Chirivas; No report, deferred to Farance, from Island House who acknowledged that Island House is moving forward in privatization and is close to agreement and signing of same with all parties. Documents will be given to the press at an appropriate time.

**Constitution Committee:** Chair, Evans, No report

**Island Services:** Chair, Hamburger – Written report;

- **Main Street Retail Advisory Committee** – Chair, Fred Plastino, Oral presentation: Committee met with Arianna Sacks of the Hudson Company today where the Main Street updating "mock-up" is located. Arianna discussed the new wood ceiling and two types of lighting being contemplated; standard and uniform signage required to be provided by store owners and what would be provided by H-R; she also reported that they were going ahead with the removal of all

glassed-in walk-through areas on the East side of Main Street, and later will do same on the west side of the street; Arianna also talked about the choice of graded (fairly neutral) colors for the cement posts. Helstien had suggested they consider motion sensitive lighting in the walkways...

**Public Safety:** Chair, Feely-Nahem – No meeting and no report; Meeting planned for 9/18 at the Senior Center to discuss one incident: Stueber and PSD; Stueber letter to The WIRE to be followed up by Farance letter to same.

**Social, Cultural and Educational Services:** Chair, Shinozaki – No report

**Communications:** Chair, Fortuna– Absent, No report.

**8. Old Business –** None

**9. New Business –**

**Motion:** presented by Aaron Hamburger: Requesting that RIOC increase the annual Public Purpose Funding from \$100,000 to \$150,000. Seconded: Farance. Farance suggested friendly amendment that the funding become two-tier: one for one-time only, and second for repeated funding. Seconded by Salisbury. Discussion; Amendment withdrawn. **VOTE: 24Y, 0N, 0A, Motion passes.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherie Helstien, Secretary