

Roosevelt Island Residents Association

Minutes of Common Council Meeting, Wednesday, December 5, 2012 Submitted for January 9, 2013 Meeting

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the RIRA Common Council was held at the Church of the Good Shepherd Community Center on December 5, 2012. The meeting was convened at 8:12 pm. President Ellen Polivy presiding, Trevor Andrews - Acting Secretary.

1. Public Session

- **Justin Rush**, Secretary for Senator Joseph Addabbo. The Senator wants to partner with RIRA for hurricane Sandy relief. They are seeking volunteers – (see flyer) distribute hot meals at Hamilton Beach on Saturday, December 15th 11:30 am to 4 pm.
- **Julia Palermo**, President of the RI Chamber of Commerce – The chamber is collecting money to put holiday lights on Main Street. They ask RIRA to donate to rent lights for one pole. The cost is \$275 per pole. Ms. Palermo mentioned that the lights are rented each year rather than purchased because no one wants to take the responsibility to maintain and store them.
- **April Ward**, President of the Roosevelt Island Garden Club Composting Program, The Garden Club has issued a survey to members and the people on the wait list seeking suggestions and requests to improve everyone's experience in the garden and to abolish the wait to join the club. Members can choose from several gardening options, according to the time and skill they have. Though it is geared mostly towards members, anyone can fill out the survey. Over 60 new beds will be designated along the borders in the garden. Applications will be available in January. The wait list for the interior plots will remain intact, but people will be able to join the club and start gardening instead of sitting on a wait list for years. The fence at Southpoint Park is blocking off 1.2 acres. The board has voted to not leave it up permanently. Ms. Ward would like to encourage the board to take it down as soon as possible.

2. Roll Call

32 members in attendance, 8 members not in attendance. Quorum achieved.

3. Approval of Agenda

- Aaron Hamburger suggested amending the agenda so that the election of secretary could be moved to next item on the agenda. Executive decision by President to move this item.
- **Motion** by Susan Marcus to move Parliamentary Procedure to the end of the meeting and eliminate recess. Vote taken by show of hands. In favor - 12, Oppose - 15 Abstain: 1 Motion Fails. Total Votes 28
- Vote on motion to approve agenda as amended In favor: 30 Oppose: 0 Abstain – 1 Motion Passes. Total Votes 31

6. Election of Secretary and Secretary Pro-tempore

Aaron Hamburger nominated Barbara Allen for the Office of Secretary. Ms. Allen accepted the nomination. There were no other nominees. She was elected by acclamation. Barbara Allen took the seat next to the President and began to record the minutes of the meeting. There was no election of Secretary Pro-tempore.

4. President's Report -

No President's Report.

Treasure's Report

Report was presented by Russell Fields. Checks written for annual Post Office fee and to Ann Biddlecom. Voted at November 2012 meeting to pay for a plaque for Officer Terrance.

5. Parliamentary Procedures

Trevre Andrews gave presentation on Robert's Rules. Refer to Parliamentary Procedures in agenda packet.

- **Order of Business**

- There is an agenda for every meeting. Contact President ahead of time if you want to add to the agenda.
- Once the agenda is presented it is no longer owned by person who put it together. You can add to the agenda before the meeting or change it at the beginning of meeting.

- **Being Respectful/Considerate**

- Don't forget to say thank you to every speaker – this helps with getting everyone's support when you need it. Only one person has floor at a time.
- Speak formally ex: say "Madam Chair"

- **Motions/Debates**

- Main Motion: brings new business (the next item on the agenda) before the group.
- Every motion should be made and restated by Chair.
- Until a motion is made, seconded, and stated by the Chair, no discussion is in order.
- Some motions can go on top of other motions.
- The president will repeat every motion that is made at the start of discussion and before the vote.
- For motions – author gets opening and closing statement.
- Debate – we are here to debate motions and not personalities.
- Discretion of Chair
 - ❖ Obtain the floor for the right to speak by being the first to raise your hand when the person speaking has finished.
 - ❖ Members must be recognized by the Chair before speaking.
 - ❖ Debate cannot begin until the Chair has stated the motion or resolution.
 - ❖ Before the motion is stated by the Chair members may suggest modification of the motion; the mover can modify as he/she pleases, or even withdraw the motion.
 - ❖ No member can speak twice to the same issue until everyone else wishing to speak has spoken to it once.
 - ❖ If a member agrees with the previous speaker just say "I concur, and I would like to add

"
 - ❖ Everyone has a right to be heard twice to make their point and to rebut.
 - ❖ Debates can be closed at a certain time or limited to a certain period of time. Chair will identify pro and con speakers and use discretion to limit discussions.
 - ❖ There is a time limit for talking in discussion.
 - ❖ Don't be afraid to remind people nicely about time limits.
 - ❖ All remarks must be directed to the Chair. Remarks must be courteous.

- **Friendly Amendment**

- A friendly amendment is an amendment to a motion under debate that is perceived by all parties as an enhancement to the original motion, often only as clarification of intent. They are offered with positive intent.
- Once a motion has been made, seconded, and stated by the chair, it belongs to the group as a whole, not to the individual who first proposed it. It is the group as a whole that must accept or reject any proposed amendment, whatever the intent of the proposer.
- The maker of the motion, and the seconder, have the same rights as the other members of the group – no more and no less.

- **Voting**

- The way to speed things up is to ask for objections to unanimous approval. If there is an objection, then a vote is taken.

- **Frank Farance clarified three rules.**

- **Point of Personal Privilege** - Pertains to noise, light, heat, etc. that affects personal comfort at the meeting. May interrupt only if necessary.
- **Point of Order** - Infraction of the rules, or improper decorum in speaking. Must be raised immediately after the error is made.
- **Point of Information** - Generally applies to information desired from the speaker. It must be framed as a question. ex: "I should like to ask the speaker a question."

7. Recess

The President explained the reason to include recess in the agenda which was to give members time to decide on their choice for committees. Recess was eliminated from the agenda at the discretion of the President and the election of committee chairs began.

8. Election of Committee Chairs

- Joyce Mincheff withdrew her name from consideration as Government Relations Chair.
- **Motion**: Frank Farance moved to approve the committee chairs with the withdrawal of Joyce Mincheff.
- **Motion**: Russell Fields moved to amend the motion. The amendment was to hear a statement from each committee chair. Call for vote: In favor – 11, Oppose – 12, Abstain – 4. Total votes – 27. Amendment fails.
- Discussion: Sharon Pope commented that since the presentation, members are not following the rules. Some members are shouting out and monopolizing the discussions. Joyce Mincheff interjected with a **Point of Order**.
- **Call for vote** on original motion by Frank Farance. Accept committee chairs with the withdrawal of Joyce Mincheff. In favor – 29, Oppose – 0, Abstain – 1. Total votes – 30. Main Motion passes.

9. Selection of Committees

Each committee chair gave a brief statement about his/her committee.

- **Communications – Co-chairs: Mark Lyon/Nicole Walden**

Mark is looking for members to help his committee. Even if you do not want to join the committee, please help to distribute items to your building and help with distributing things to your building. First meeting will be scheduled by email.

Roosevelt Island Residents Association

Members

Allen, Barbara	Manhattan Park
Escobar, Jeff	Octagon
Hooks, Julina	Manhattan Park
Polivy, Ellen	Rivercross

- **Housing Committee - Chair: Joyce Mincheff**

There are many housing issues that the committee needs to address. There are so many changes happening in the community such as co-ops, privatization, etc. Things happening in one building can help residents in another building. She is looking to have at least one person on the committee from each of the buildings.

Members

Ahn, Cynthia	Roosevelt Landings
Polivy, Ellen	Rivercross
Evans, Dave	Southtown

- **Island Services: Chair, Aaron Hamburger**

Main Street retail store issues are a special group of Island Services. It is a special subcommittee. Island Services deals with several issues such as: Red Bus schedule & stops, Motorgate, sports facilities, Tram, retail stores, and new public library.

Members

Reid, Romano	Roosevelt Landings
Chirvas, Helen	Island House
Marcus, Susan	Westview
Ahn, Cynthia	Roosevelt Landings
Bosbach, Eva	Southtown
Rindler, Mickey	Southtown
Church, Michael	Manhattan Park
Andrews, Trevre	Southtown
Farance, Frank	Island House
Stapen Elisabeth	Octagon
Strong, Joseph	Manhattan Park
Armstrong, Juyana	Roosevelt Landings
O'Conor, Rick	Roosevelt Islander

Retail Store Sub Committee – Chair: TBD

Feinmel, Vicki	
Farance, Frank	Island House
Strong, Joe	Manhattan Park
Stapen, Elisabeth	Octagon
Marcus, Susan	Westview
O'Conor, Rick	Roosevelt Islander
Ahn, Cynthia	Roosevelt Landings

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- **Planning – Chair: Frank Farance**

Planning committee looks at items long term and may overlap with Island Services. Some of the items are Street parking, emergency planning, relationships with RIOC, and the Silicon Island Subcommittee.

Members

Romm, Ethel	Rivercross
O’Conor, Rick	Roosevelt Islander
Andrews, Trevre	Southtown
McCleary, Bryn Bass	Manhattan Park
Fields, Russell	Island House

- **Public Safety – Chair: Erin Feely-Nahem**

Ensure community residents’ needs are being met. Deals with quality of life issues. ex: Investigate why Neil Stewart was arrested; opposed public safety officers using tasers; gave a commendation to Officer Terrence. The community comes to public safety with problems. First meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 19th, 8pm at Senior Center.

Members

Reid, Romano	Roosevelt Landings
Armstrong, Juyana	Roosevelt Landings
Amatullah, Laila	Roosevelt Landings
O’Conor, Rick	Roosevelt Islander
Digilio, Peter	Southtown
McCleary, Bryn Bass	Manhattan Park
Farance, Frank	Island House
Shinozaki, Lynne	Manhattan Park

- **Social, Cultural, & Educational – Chair: Lynne Shinozaki**

- Some events they have worked on are Cherry Blossom Festival; Upcoming events to be planned are Bollywood Festival; 2 runs; choosing an item/items to be sold as a fundraiser. Lynne also mentioned some volunteer opportunities.
- For Hurricane Sandy victims: Every Sunday from 8am – 9am individuals can drop off donations at PS 217. Also donations can be taken to Trellis.
- At Trellis there is a giving tree where individuals can pick up an ornament and give a gift to a child.
- On December 15, 2012 join Senator Serrano and RIRA for Hurricane Sandy relief in the Rockaways.
- There are also volunteer opportunities at head start groups.
- First meeting scheduled for Monday, January 17th at 7:00 pm at Senior Center.

Members

Reid, Romano	Roosevelt Landings
Armstrong, Juyana	Roosevelt Landings
Hooks, Julina	Manhattan Park
Stapen, Elisabeth	Octagon
Feely-Nahem, Erin	Westview

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- **Government Relations – Chair Michael Churchill**

Members

Pope, Sharon	Rivercross
Amatullah, Laila	Roosevelt Landings
Waldon, Nicole	Octagon
Evans, Dave	Southtown
Mincheff, Joyce	Roosevelt Landings
McCleary, Bryn Bass	Manhattan Park
Escobar, Jeff	Octagon

10. Committee Reports

Social, Cultural, Educational – Upcoming Hurricane Relief Trip Dec 15, co-sponsored by RIRA and Senator Serrano

11. Old/New Business

- Eva Bosbach spoke about a support group for new moms and new affordable child care on Roosevelt Island (children 3 months to 4 years). There is a free weekly Baby Group. Get support in a safe environment and create a network with other moms and/or dads and their babies, including play and story time. Location: Island Kids, 536 Main Street, in the courtyard behind 510 and 540 Main Street, under the ramp. Thursdays, 10-11 am, 01/10 – 04/18/2013 Contact: Eva eva.bosbach@amu.cz
- **Motion**: Joyce Mincheff moved to support the Chamber of Commerce request for \$275 for holiday lights.
 - Discussion: Frank Farance opposed giving money to rent the holiday lights because he believes they should be purchased and stored.
 - Aaron Hamburger states that the problem is not just storing the lights. Buying includes storing, maintaining, setting up, taking down, and repair.
 - Joyce Mincheff suggested that the Planning Committee do the research. Since Frank Farance objects to this every year, the Planning Committee should explore alternatives to renting every year.
 - Sharon Pope: **Call the Question** Vote to give \$275 to Chamber of Commerce for Holiday Lights In Favor – 27 Oppose – 3, Abstain 1 Total Vote: 31. Motion passes.
- Roosevelt Island Community Coalition Committee
 - The purpose is to communicate with RIOC on development.
 - Advised to have a separate corporation setup to reach out to other organizations so it had more “teeth,” several people from RIRA started a long term process to reach out to the community to get organizations to join.
 - 35+ organizations participate.
 - Currently in negotiations with Cornell.
 - Interacting with community Board 8.
 - Goal is to have 4 Board members from RIRA on the coalition.
 - Any organization on Roosevelt Island can serve on the Committee but only some can be on the Board.

Roosevelt Island Residents Association

- Representative: Dave Evans, Lynn Shinozaki, Bryn Bass McCleary
 - RIRA Board seat: Dave Evans, Lynn Shinozaki, Bryn Bass McCleary
 - **Motion:** Joyce Mincheff moved to table RI Community Coalition Committee. President asked for objection to unanimous approval. No objection. Motion Passes.
- Discussion: With Barbara Allen moving to role of Secretary, does Joe Strong move into her seat? President will research and decide at next meeting.
 - Discussion: Aaron started the discussion that our meetings are always held on the first Wednesday of every month and should be held on January 2nd since it is a regular business day.
 - Decide on date of January meeting
Motion: Frank Farance moved that meeting be held on January 9 instead of January 2.
Yes 20 No – 4 Abstain – 3 Total Vote: 27 Motion Passes.

Next Meeting: January 9, 2013 (Mailing Deadline: Friday, January 4, 2013)

Notes to chair (not to be included in the minutes):

12. Adjourn

- **Motion:** Joyce Mincheff moved to adjourn meeting. President asked for objection to unanimous approval. No objection. Motion Passes.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:20 pm.

Submitted by: Barbara Allen
January 7, 2013