

Roosevelt Island Residents Association
Common Council Meeting, Wednesday, June 6, 2012
Amended Minutes for May 2, 2012 Meeting

1. Public Access – 8:06 p.m.

Linda Janneh – City Affairs Office of the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office: Gave a quarterly report on crimes that were committed on Roosevelt Island and prosecuted: 24 arrests, mostly minor traffic violations, trespass, drugs (marijuana possession), assault, and including three for domestic violence.

NYPD Officer Dino Sitaris – Reported on his relationship with RIOC’s Public Safety and their policing efforts. Roosevelt Island is a good place to be stationed because of low and benign criminal statistics. Public Safety presence is good and visible. Problems in Motorgate with stolen wheel rims and tires; usually in mid-morning when Public Safety may be in other locations. Sitaris is working to get more Public Safety oversight in the garage.

Regular Meeting called to order at 8:15 pm:

2. Roll Call: Quorum achieved (22 present).

3. Approval of 5/ 2/12 Amended Agenda: After President’s report, Polivy will speak. **Second: Atkins; Approved by acclamation.**

4. Approval of 4/4/12 Minutes: Second: Hamburger; Approved by acclamation.

5. Treasurer’s Report – written

Current checking balance: \$4,944.64; LAFC: \$1,222.27; Treasurer reported receiving a deposit of \$126 from Helstien from the sale of hats and beverages during the Cherry Blossom Festival. Therefore, the RIRA assets total should be adjusted accordingly: \$5030.64.

6. President’s Report –

- The letter supporting the BikeShare program, approved at the April 4 Council meeting, was sent to DOT Commissioner Sadik-Khan on April 14. Katz forwarded the similarly approved resolution to the RIOC Board asking for a community meeting and repeated the request at the Operations Committee on April 16 and the full Board on April 19. It was agreed at the April 16 meeting that the resident Board members would meet at 8:00 p.m. following the regular board meeting on May 24. This information was reported as well, in the April 21 *WIRE* issue. Katz asked the councilors to email the Board to reinforce this request.

- Katz received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Chamber of Commerce thanking RIRA for its participation in the holiday lights program and the overall advancement in community prosperity.

- The April 5 Cornell Town Meeting has been well covered by both *The Main Street WIRE* and the Roosevelt Islander blog. The Silicon City Coalition continues to define itself and Susan Marcus, representing RIRA’s participating committee, has shared her comments in the written report included in the agenda package.

- Fred Plastino convened a meeting of the (renamed) Main Street Retail Advisory sub-committee on April 25. This meeting was reported on in the RIRA Column. Katz has concerns over the status of our new library at 504 Main Street in that the space won’t be left vacant forever and is dependent upon significant construction funding and the support of the NYPL. Both Council Member Lappin and Senator Serrano have indicated that this is a high priority for them with pledges of \$1M and \$300K respectively. We must do whatever we can to expedite this project before Hudson/Related loses patience and considers other uses for the space.

- Tonight begins the process of signing up RIRA members for the next four Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., beginning May 19, to help solicit blood donors for our June 9 RIRA Blood Drive. Katz hopes councilors will cheerfully step up to the plate and volunteer to help make this project a success.

a. Ellen Polivy, CB8 Transportation Committee meeting report on BikeShare: The initial BikeShare passed unanimously and the rollout begins in July. If we’re not included in the beginning of this rollout, we will be included a short time later.

Sen – Wants a study of how this will be implemented on the Island.

Escobar – We are not at that point yet – we are only *asking* to be included – BikeShare must first figure out from initial rollout what/where there are problems and how to deal with them.

Pope – Transportation Alternatives will send people to communities to teach “rules of the road” to bicyclers and pedestrians.

7. Committee Reports –

Social, Cultural and Educational Services: Chair, Shinozaki, absent – No report. Helstien made a Motion for Common Council approval of funds up to \$375 for the upcoming Roosevelt Island Day RIRA Bagel & Coffee Breakfast. Seconded: VOTE: **25Y, 0N, 1A; Motion carries.**

Communications: Chair, Fortuna– No report

Government Relations/MTG sub-committee: E. Polivy; Verbal report

- Common Council: Community Meeting with resident RIOC Board members 8 p.m. May 24.

- Next GRC meeting will be Monday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Topics will include creating an “Experts List” for the RIOC Board’s committees to use which may need support and expertise on various issues or problems. This list would include Island residents who would as volunteers provide necessary information on gardening, tree care, etc. to the Board.

Housing: Chair, Chirivas absent– No report –

Farance, Island House Tenant Association’s (IHTA) Secretary, announced that an agreement has been arrived at between owners, tenants, RIOC, and the ESDC for terms to begin the conversion process towards privatization of that building.

Constitution Committee: Chair, Evans, Verbal report –Will have a report on work done in September amending RIRA By-laws and Constitution. Mincheff and Farance were at the last meeting and **the committee** will work with Evans to produce that report.

Island Services: Chair, Hamburger – No report;

Main Street Retail Advisory sub-committee: Plastino reported on our first meeting with Andrew Jackson who is willing to meet with this committee on a periodic basis. He is open to discussion of issues, questions, and problems. Plastino summarized the leasing status for Northtown’s Main Street as it stands at the moment, and as it appeared in the most recent issue of *The Main Street WIRE* and the RI blog. The prototype of what a proposed design for Main Street might look like will be installed at 538 Main Street. Some discussion ensued about complaints that the realty company, Winnick, is not being responsive to inquiries. Jackson said that some rejected prospects were not equipped financially or with enough retail knowledge or know-how.

Planning: Chair, Farance – no meeting; he hopes to meet prior to Memorial Day.

Silicon Island sub-Committee - Written report submitted by Chair, S. Marcus (including, for the moment, Silicon City CBA’s report)

Public Safety: Chair, Feely-Nahem – Meeting scheduled for 5/22 @ 7:30 p.m.; Feely-Nahem is checking on problem with overnight parking ticketing; the committee will explore the possibility of creating some kind of overnight parking pass at Motorgate where people can park without fear of ticketing.

8. Old Business –

Katz handed out the blood drive sign up sheet for Council Members.

9. New Business –

Williams mentioned that there is a Veterans group that meets at 556 Main Street, if anyone is interested.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherie Helstien, Secretary