



RGNA Annual Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2009

The Rose Garden Neighborhood Association annual meeting was held on Monday, August 13, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the Masonic Temple. Chuck Canning graciously arranged this meeting place and conducted a tour of the facility before the meeting.

Present were Arjana Etchason*, Janet Gross*, Jane Shrood, John Rowley, James Snyder, John Bowen, Becky Bowen, Marianne Canning, Abby Wiener, Alan Wiener, Claudia Steckel, John Janson, Bobbi Janson, Nick Watters, George Bentz+, Regina Harris, Carol Watters, Karl DeBoeser, Lynn Yonally, Stephanie Sherry, Brian Sherry, Maryann Baloh+, Ted Wursta, Charles Canning, Lou Mazziotta, Nancy Mazziotta, and Jeff Moser+.

* Steering Committee members

+ Non RGNA Members

Since President Bill Hacker was absent, Janet Gross chaired the meeting.

Treasurer and Membership Committee Chair Arjana Etchason reported that there is \$629 in the account. We have also been officially incorporated and will soon open up an account in the name of the association instead of a personal account. RGNA will NOT be set up as a 501 (c) (3) organization, on the advice of attorney and member Jack Gross. Jack was not present at the meeting, but explained the following to Janet Gross in a telephone conversation prior to the meeting: The cost to set up a 501 (c) (3) is prohibitive and the association would have to collect thousands of dollars in charitable contributions to make it worthwhile. In addition, the annual reporting duties are also quite onerous.

Arjana and Janet also made a request for a volunteer to serve as the head of the Block Captains. Brian Sherry graciously agreed to serve.

Due to the number of e-mails requesting information about the Cedar Creek Park renovations and RGNA's position regarding them, Janet raised the issue. Bill Hacker, association Janet in an earlier discussion that RGNA is generally supportive of improvements in the park and grateful that funds are being spent. This provoked quite an uproar, with non-member Jeff Moser very vocal about his objections to the plans. The discussion included accusations that neighbors and other members of the public were not properly informed, that with the city's finances in trouble and having to lay off park workers such capital improvements shouldn't be done, the planting of vegetation to stem the flooding would result in more water rats, the improvements to the Rose Garden to facilitate weddings would result in more traffic in the neighborhood, nothing should be built in a flood plain, there hasn't been an impact study, and with school playgrounds for handicapped children to use, the one in Cedar Creek Park shouldn't built. Becky Bowen, chair of the Park & Garden Committee said they met with Greg Weitzel, the head of the Parks Department, and were quite reassured by the Phase One plan that is



actually going to be implemented. In the end, Janet urged people with concerns to attend the special meeting of City Council on August 13 to discuss the park renovations and reiterated that with such a large number of homeowners in the association and a wide diversity of opinions, RGNA cannot take an official position on the current Cedar Creek Park plans.

Becky Bowen stated that the Park & Garden Committee has a perennial plant exchange planned in the fall.

Lynn Yonally, a member of the History and Architecture Committee, stated that there will be a self guided walking tour on Sunday, Sept. 27, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. The tour will feature the first 10 houses built in the Cedar Bluff, Point Comfort section of our neighborhood. A guide with addresses and information on these homes will be available on our web site within the next few weeks. On the day of our tour, our committee will be stationed throughout the tour to answer any questions or collect any additional information you may know about any of the homes featured.

In Event Chair Catherine DeBoeser's absence, Janet reported the following:

A good time was had by all at the neighbors Muhlenberg night; 20 of us attended the musical revue, "Forever Plaid." Thanks to Amy Scalici for hosting the BYOB wine and cheese social beforehand. T

There will be a concert in the Rose Garden on Friday August 28. Details on website and via e-mail to follow.

The RGNA annual picnic will be held at one of the Rose Garden pavilions on Sunday, September 13. Details to follow. Lynn Yonally volunteered to make name tags with pictures of our homes. Stephanie Sherry, who works for Olympus, offered to provide a wide-angle lens camera.

ACTION ITEMS: Janet will post links to the city's minutes regarding the Cedar Creek Park renovations on our website.