

MINUTES OF THE RIDGEWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION (RNA) BOARD MEETING
September 23, 2024

Board of Directors (BOD) Present: Dave Ballard, President; Kristin Ballard, Treasurer; Chrystal Aceves, Secretary; Ralph Legg, Member-at-Large/ Propane Co-op Program Coordinator

Committee Chairs/Members Present: Randy Aceves, Ridgewood 108 Firewise Lead; Chris Amend, Architectural Chair/Block 2 Captain; Karen Hebert, Membership/ Block Captains' Coordinator/Co-webmaster; Sandy Fisher, Architectural Support/Block 4 Captain; Sandy Piercey, Ridgettes; Don Nester, Co-webmaster

Guests: Charles Luke, Bob Fisher

The meeting of the RNA Board of Directors was held at the Moose Lodge and called to order at 3:02 pm by President Dave Ballard. Dave confirmed a quorum of the Board was present and proceeded with the meeting.

Key Topics

Dave wanted to go over key items needing to be addressed by the Board prior to getting into general business and roundtable Committee reporting. He wanted to identify and get feedback on single points of failures within the Board and Committees and workload distribution amongst Board members and Committee Chairs.

Member-At-Large Transition: Ralph will continue as member-at-large and propane co-op program coordinator until he sales his home and relocates out of the Ridgewood community. Ralph's move isn't expected for another 6-8 months.

Charles Luke has volunteered to take on both member-at-large and propane co-op program coordinator, (should Tom Crosby not be able to fill the role of the propane co-op program coordinator), after Ralph's departure. Charles will begin training with Ralph immediately to understand duties and responsibilities for member-at-large and propane coordinator. Tom served as co-propane co-op program coordinator about a year ago and will be kept in the loop as needed.

Open Board Positions: Specifically, the Vice President open position. Dave put forth a call from anyone present to show interest in the VP position. This position cannot stay vacant for more than 90 days, according to RNA By-laws. This open position creates a hole as a voting BOD position and supports a necessary quorum to take any official action on behalf of the Board at such meetings.

Chrystal proposed to the Board that she will step-up to fill the VP position but cannot continue with all the Secretary duties. She proposed taking the Newsletter editor piece with her to the VP position, leaving the Secretary duties of writing, collecting comments, and providing final version in pdf format of minutes to Karen/Don for posting. Chrystal will continue to take minutes until her replacement is found. Kristin felt that finding a Secretary would be easier than filling the VP position.

This brought to light that the 2004 RNA By-laws are outdated. The current By-laws have unclear and disproportionate roles and responsibilities of the BODs, as well as Committee chairs. This has caused blurred lines and does not accurately represent and align to the interest of our Community, the BOD's, or Committee's roles and responsibilities being done today. This includes the current By-Laws account of possible Committee names and how they fit us doing business today. A strong look needs to take place to categorize Committees, change names/descriptors as appropriate, and restructure roles and responsibilities.

Further discussion of writing an addendum to the By-laws and clearly outlining these roles and responsibilities has been tabled and needs further discussion.

Karen Hebert motioned to have Chrystal step-up to VP, take the Newsletter editor piece to that position, and search for a Secretary replacement to take minutes. Kristin second the motion.

October 13th Fall Event:

Randy Aceves confirmed “firewise” speakers; Steve Johnson and Matt Zelinsky. Ralph Legg confirmed Ryan Campbell has it on his calendar and will confirm again with Ryan closer to the day of the event, and Dave spoke with Jeff Lee to reach out to the new Sheriff David Vasquez.

Raffle Prizes: Karen talked with Divine Market and Sindelar Tree Service, Randy will talk with Rodgers Pest Control and Knights Solution, and Kristin will check with Schnoogs, Adventure Café, Save Mart, Black Oak, Sonora Junk Removal. Request for others to check on places they frequent and see if you have something you received as a gift that was appropriate to re-gift.

Discussed any changes and finalized the flyer (2024 Issue 6). Chrystal will update and get final review from the Board prior to forwarding to Karen for posting on the website. The flyer will be sent via email to those who have emails on record; there will be no hard copy mailing for this flyer.

General Business

Past Board Minutes — Chrystal Aceves

- July 22, 2024 Board meeting minutes. Ralph motioned to approve as written. Kristin second. Chrystal will create pdf and send to Karen for posting on the website.
- August 26, 2024 Board meeting minutes. Ralph motioned to approve as written. Kristin second. Chrystal will create pdf and send to Karen for positing on the website.

Newsletter — Chrystal Aceves

- Newsletter announcing incoming President Dave Ballard effective August 1, 2024 and outgoing President message from Charles Luke. The Newsletter included Committee updates from; Firewise, Neighborhood Watch, Propane, Architectural, and website development. Special announcement to “Save the Date” for the RNA Fall and general membership get together was included. Newsletter (2024 Issue 5) has been finalized, approved, printed, and distributed!

Treasurer Report – Kristin Ballard

Currently have 61 paid 2024 dues and four (4) 2025 paid dues.

Discussion regarding providing the option to pay dues through VENMO. VENMO charges \$1.00 per \$20.00 transaction. Does the Board want to request the homeowner paying their dues on VENMO to pay it or should the RNA absorb the fee? It’s pretty minimal, Board voted to try absorbing the fee for the remainder of 2024 and through 2025. If it gets to be too much, then the fee will be pass on to the payee.

Motion to approve Treasurer report by Dave Ballard and second by Ralph Legg.

Request was made to add VENMO payment option @RNASonora to the 2025 membership form.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Firewise – Randy Aceves

Confirmed Steve Johnson and Matt Zelinsky for October 13th Fall event. Consented to check with Rodgers Pest Control and Knights Solutions for donations to the raffle as they did last year.

Co-Webmaster – Karen Hebert/Don Nester

Restructured Firewise section and added brief message under “About” in reference to Firewise on the website per Randy’s request.

Karen requested pics from the April 13th Firewise event to post on website.

This sparked another question of “assigning” someone to take pictures at all the events as there were very few taken at the Firewise event. Recommendation was made for Sandy Fisher to be our photographer as she has been conscientious about taken pics at all previous events.

Randy asked about the email mailings; are they coming from the website or Karen’s personal email address? Karen attested that she has been doing the email blasts from her personal email address. This struck an exchange regarding the Board’s request to have emails come from the NEW website. Don/Karen informed the Board the current WordPress package doesn’t include that feature. Dave asked for a quote on what the cost difference would be to get a package that does include WebMail from the RNA website domain. Currently, the domain name cost ~15.00/year and our particular WordPress package cost ~\$265/year and this was with a discount for a 2-yr contract.

Dave wants to understand what we are currently getting (for X amount of money) and what we need to upgrade to and the cost (for comparison) to have a WordPress package to include email capabilities. Requested information for his review by the end of the week (September 30th).

Board discussed combining the roles and responsibilities of co-webmaster and membership and give it a more defining title: “Membership Communications Specialist” to Karen and include this position as a Board of Directors with voting privileges. Chrystal motioned for this change and Kristin second the motion.

Block Captains’ Coordinator – Karen Hebert

Nothing new to report. Not a lot of activity needing to be funneled down to the block captains for action.

Question came up regarding the need to maintain the block captains’ roles and would it make sense to streamline these positions and possible free up these individuals to fall into another role? This is another example of old neighborhood needs vs new needs assessment. The objective is to reach current goals of the Board of Directors, Committees, and the Ridgewood community.

Charles and Ralph shared their concern regarding NOT having Block Captains. They felt the Block Captains are necessary in case of an emergency. Others on the Board felt that Ridgewood residents would be hightailing it out of the neighborhood in an emergency, not looking up their Block Captain to contact and vice versa!

Kristin and Randy felt that with cell phones and the OES emergency dispatch alert system, that a phone tree and/or Block Captain interface needs more evaluation and discussion.

This assessment, along with RNA By-law addendum, has been table for later discussion.

Architectural Committee – Chris Amend

LOTS of discussion regarding pre-manufactured home vs on-site construction of a new building on a lot in Ridgewood. Chris brought to the Boards' attention that Ridgewood II consists of 77 parcels and 70 parcels have homes/structures on them and **ALL** are custom built homes.

Chris brought to the Board for discussion and approval a request to build a pre-manufactured home with a 3-10 roof pitch on an empty lot in Ridgewood Estates. The landowner has communicated, through emails, that the RNA CC&Rs do not specifically say that a pre-manufactured home CANNOT be built in Ridgewood. Chris has explained to the landowner that the CC&Rs do not have a COMPLETE list of what CAN or CANNOT be built on a parcel in Ridgewood.

The Board adamantly and unanimously voted NOT to approve a pre-manufactured home on an empty lot in Ridgewood!

Ridgettes – Sandy Piercey

One person reached out as a possible host, but no date or location has been discussed.

Old Business

No discussion

New Business

Chrystal suggested a year-end Newsletter which will require a Board meeting to discuss contents and then to schedule a 2025 Membership Social in January.

Next Board Meeting: December 9, 2024 at the Moose Lodge 3:00pm. Karen confirmed Moose Lodge's availability.

Next Planned RNA Event: January 12, 2025, 12 -2:00 pm at the Moose Lodge. Karen confirmed Moose Lodge's availability.

Meeting adjourned by Dave Ballard at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Chrystal Aceves, RNA Secretary