

Rocky Ripple Town Council Meeting
May 10, 2016

Carla Gaff Clark called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm. Also in attendance was Mandy Redmond, Jill Morris and clerk-treasurer, Kandy Kendall.

Secretary Report

Mandy reported she sent a letter to social security administration in response to the wage report discrepancies between the IRS and social security for the Town employees for the year 2014.

The April minutes, with corrections, were approved by Mandy and Jill seconded. Minutes are posted outside the Town Hall in the bulletin/display case.

Treasurer Report

Kandy gave the treasurer report and indicated we had received the insurance bill for the Town and that she would be sending a check for \$6265.00 next week. There were no other significant bills and the bank account balanced with our executive summary.

Mandy moved the treasurer report be accepted & Jill seconded.

Butler Presentation

Ben Hunter, representing Butler University, presented an update as to what was happening with building at Butler as well as the levee project. With Mr. Hunter was Rich Michaels, Michael Cocomark and Courtney White, Butler Police Officer; Community Outreach.

Midtown Anchor Coalition: The Coalition is composed of representatives from Christian Theological Seminary, Midtown, International School, IMA, and BTA. The Coalition has marked areas they need to work on regarding rental properties as well as infrastructure. They brought their separate master plans and are working on bringing all their work proposals together for one plan. First priority seems to be Clarendon Road & Sunset Avenue south of campus. Butler wishes to make their main stretch on campus more of a boulevard and also wish to define the edges of campus. They applied for a federal grant for Clarendon Road to make it part of the cultural trail. Unfortunately, the City did not submit the grant to the federal agency. Butler will continue to work on this plan.

The most activity on campus now is housing as they address this problem in phases. Currently the new dorm next to the library is almost finished. The second site is Schwitzer Hall, next to Atherton. Schwitzer is not a historic structure. It was built in 1950 and in 1956-57 wings were added. It was a Sear's kit house, except for the ornate doorways. The biggest issue is Schwitzer is not ADA accessible. Schwitzer will be razed and they will try to save the seven ornate doorways.

Traffic is always an issue and Butler is working to designate more car share spaces with Indy Blue as well as establishing more Indy Go bus routes to Keystone at the Crossing, St. Vincent's Hospital as well as downtown. Finally, Butler would like to have a bike share hub on campus. The ultimate plan is to not allow freshman to have cars on campus.

University Police have always worked well with our town marshal and there has not been an issue backing up each other. Courtney White has been with University Police for two years. University Police wish to increase their community presence so Ms. White will work as the neighborhood liaison and will be a good resource for Rocky Ripple. As University Police, they have to follow more federal laws, under the Clery Act, than your local police force and thus are stingy on what they patrol due to the reports they must file and the penalties imposed if the report has an error in the paperwork. What this means is that their presence in Rocky Ripple is not as much as it was in past years.

Rocky Ripple residents can sign up for Butler alerts, if we wish. It is information overload since it concerns, weather alerts as well as activity on campus. Ms. White will get the link to us.

Floodwall: Butler's stance is what their Board has decided it will be and that is they have asked DPW and the City for full protection. They also want a solution that includes Rocky Ripple and does not go thru Holcomb gardens. Butler will not do a legal battle on eminent domain so they will not discuss that as an option. Butler feels there will be legal concerns along the way and that they will meet with the Army Corp again. Unfortunately for Butler, the Army Corp again says they will go thru Holcomb Gardens so Butler is getting ready if this does happen. Butler has questioned this idea and has asked the Army Corp to consider going along the canal as well as questioning how the soil samples can be so different on each side of the canal. Mayor Hogsett has committed to reviewing the proposal that the previous mayor accepted. At this point, Mayor Hogsett has not committed to changing the previous proposal.

Ben Hunter indicated he was at a luncheon in the northern part of the State and Representative Charlie Brown asked if there is a State solution that could be proposed in January when the legislators are back in session. Rep. Brown wondered if they could reposition the dollars committed by the federal government to the State and then maybe not go thru Holcomb gardens. Mr. Hunter suggested we contact our elected officials in DC as well as the State and inquire as to whether there is a local solution. He suggested that those involved with the floodwall, should voice their opinions. Mr. Hunter indicated that given the Army Corp was shovel ready in January and here it is May and nothing has been started, then there is hope that it is still being looked at.

Carla reported that Representative Greg Porter and Ed Delaney are adamant about helping Rocky Ripple to address the need for flood protection. It was suggested the Board open up taxing units as a way to get money. It was also suggested that if we work on local options and not federal options, we will have a lot more possibilities as well as flexibility.

Ben Hunter suggested we call him at 940- 9982 or Courtney White at 940- 9496 if we have any questions about Butler's involvement with the floodwall or any other issue we may have.

Old Business

1. Levee: The Board has been talking with DPW about river restoration. The question being addressed is where does DPW come in after the Dirt Committee has

finished clearing. DPW and the Board will be negotiating specifics over the next few months. Currently, DPW is preparing the legal contract indicating what DPW will help us with. Once the Board approves the contract, they will share results with Rocky Ripple residents.

2. Highland Development

Bart Harriman had sent proposed wording for a letter to Mandy that he hoped the Town Board would utilize to express the opposition of Rocky Ripple regarding the development that is being proposed at Highland County Club. Bart wished for the Board to share the letter with City County Councilor Joe Simpson. The residents of Highland have raised \$2 million but still need another \$.7 million to meet the money offered by the developer. Joe Simpson, City County Councilor, will talk to the City Council on Thursday, which is why Bart suggested the urgency in getting Rocky Ripples views expressed. There is the environmental concern of 80' bluff on the White River just south of our Town Hall will be topped partially and bent backwards with riprap along bottom of the cliff near the river.

Carla said she is not against sending a letter but believed we should not be acting so chaotic and adamant in our letter and realize that we are telling others what they can do with their property. Carla also acknowledged we are talking decades and centuries of the environmental effect on what would happen if the natural occurring bluff along the White River was altered. Again, it was asked that we support our adjacent neighbors and be stewards for the environment and wildlife. Prior to this Board meeting, Mandy had modified the original letter Bart composed and proposed that with the different wording, the Board would be willing to sign off and send the letter to Joe Simpson asking him to oppose the project. Carla and Jill agreed. The next meeting is set for 10:00 Friday May 13th for the permit.

3. Town Marshal Contract

Carla has it and the trustees have now signed it. Carla will distribute signed copies to all trustees once M. Kiefer has signed it.

4. Town Attorney

The search continues.

New Business

1.RREM

There was no meeting last month

2. Community Association

There was no meeting in April but the May meeting, next Tuesday, is for election of officers. President and sergeant at arms will be elected. Dhyana Raynor said they need a emcee for the festival and that this year will be the 17th annual Rocky Ripple Art Festival.

Citizens' Concerns

1. Scott Westphal asked why Riverview Drive south of his house was marked. Carla said this is what DPW has marked as road improvement they are going to do.

Comment [MR1]: Really? DPW is going to fix our street?

Currently, we have \$15,000 in our road fund. Marshal Mike is doing a town wide street assessment to see where we have the greatest need.

2. Kandy suggested we address the parking lot in front of the Town Hall. When we have heavy rains, the water comes in the front door of the hall as well as the marshal's office. Mandy said the parking lot needs to be dug out and then stone added.

With nothing further to discuss Jill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 and Mandy seconded.

Respectfully Submitted
Kandy Kendall,
Clerk Treasurer