

Rocky Ripple Town Council Meeting
July 12, 2016

Carla Gaff Clark called the meeting to order at 7:32p.m. Also in attendance was Mandy Redmond, Jill Morris and clerk-treasurer, Kandy Kendall.

Joe Simpson, City County Councilman for Rocky Ripple, was introduced by Mandy. Joe was at our meeting to discuss issues that concern the citizens of Rocky Ripple. Mr. Simpson spoke about the floodwall plan and indicated he would like to bring Lori Miser, DPW, to a Rocky Ripple meeting so that she can discuss the floodwall plan with a map to explain the current plan to us. He said he wanted the meeting to be for Rocky Ripple only and that he had stopped meeting with Butler Tarkington because of the constant confrontations and nothing getting accomplished at their meetings.

A citizen spoke and wanted to know what Mr. Simpson could do about flood protection for all. It was stated that when Mayor Ballard signed with the Army Corp of Engineers (ACE) that it was a sealed deal and the only way to get out of the current plan is to tell ACE the City of Indianapolis wants out and then ACE would walk away.

Mr. Simpson wanted to know if we had any concerns with our streets or drainage at which point, Carla asked him about the LOIT money that was given to the counties for street repairs. He did not have any information to share but stated that he thought the City wanted to put it into a reserve and not spend it. He said he thinks the money should be spent and he will continue to fight for us and see if some of the money can come to Rocky Ripple for street repairs. He asked Carla to again send him an email so that he could forward it onto DPW and get us on the list of streets that need repaired. Carla gave him a copy of the letter that had been sent to him and others a number of weeks ago. Marshal Mike said we currently have our Community Matching Grant application ready to submit to INDOT but that he thought a good street to work on in the future would be Canal Boulevard.

Treasurer Report

Report was given by Kandy and motion to approve made by Mandy. Jill seconded. All were in favor

Secretary Report

Report was given by Kandy and motion to approve with corrections was made by Jill. Mandy seconded. All were in favor.

Old Business

Town Rental

Mandy would like to update the Facility Rental agreement form and add contacts for persons to call if there is a problem or concern. It was also discussed whether we should charge differently for ½ a day usage in Hohlt Park given that 4 hours really isn't ½ a day of sunlight. Carla said we will start a draft and go from there.

Town Attorney

Candidate Felicia Locke was interviewed by the Town Council prior to today's meeting. Jill motioned that we hire Ms. Locke as our Town's attorney. Mandy seconded. All were in favor. Ms. Locke introduced herself and spoke about her background being in real estate and that a Town's legal needs will be new for her. She said she is accessible and she looks forward to getting to know the residents and the Town.

INDOT Grant

Kandy and Mike have been working diligently on the matching grant for street repairs. Kandy said she now has all the needed parts to put everything together and send to INDOT. We are asking for four areas in Town to be paved and the area on Crown Street to be a new pour of concrete. The quote from Globe Asphalt Paving Co. was for \$40,460.00; meaning that we hope to be awarded \$20,230.00. Currently, we have \$30,000 in our rainy day fund.

Marilyn Hunter has obtained \$3,700.00 in citizens' pledges so far. The pledges will be asked for when we receive the grant and the pledged money will be given to the Community Association so that tax credit letters can then be issued to those who so generously gave to the Town. Carla will follow up with phone calls and the letters that Marilyn has already sent out.

Flood Control Update

The Board members attended a meeting July 7th with the Army Corp of Engineers (ACE). ACE was there to discuss aesthetics of the current floodwall plan and not to discuss who wants it or not. It is scheduled and as ACE stated; "It is all systems go." ACE said they will be following their procedure to minimize the adverse effects on Holcomb Gardens and other historical sites. There has been no movement on changing the current floodwall plan and the first bid will go out on August 17th for the area behind the Rivi and then February 17th the bids will go out for the wall along Westfield Boulevard. At the highest, the wall will be 6.5' and lowest will be just inches. Mayor Hogsett has recommended a feasibility study for an independent national engineering firm to review floodwall plans along the river. The study is expected to be completed in August per Jeff Bennett from the mayor's office. The mayor's office has not commented yet on what, if any change, would be made to the Westfield Boulevard Alignment floodwall plan, as a result of this study.

Carla said BTNA still wants to be involved in our protection. She also said that a local project to protect Rocky Ripple by working on our current levee would likely be much more acceptable to homeowners.

Mike Mooney asked if the Board would put their ideas on paper. Mandy indicated they will put something out and that the Board's approach is still the three-prong approach shared with residents at the special floodwall meeting held on March 5, 2016. Jill said the Board is working on a draft document that will help show what has been done in each area to date to share with residents.

Margaret Brabant said we need to challenge the federal standard that one size fits all; meaning that the standards imposed after Katrina are not the standards that are

needed in Rocky Ripple. Margaret would like to take legal action and Felicia said she would be glad to talk to Margaret in private.

River Bank Stabilization

Carla said she attended five meetings within the past 30 days and at this point, the Board is working with DNR, as well as DPW, to verify what permitting would be needed to do work on the levee. The Board earmarked 12-15 trees that needed to be worked on based on if they fell, they would pull the levee dirt with them. DNR said any work on the levee involving tree removal should be done in October to protect the bats.

KIB and Eli Lily will bring volunteers to Rocky Ripple in September to eradicate honeysuckle and other unwanted levee growth. Angie Hermann asked what would replace the honeysuckle and Carla responded that DNR is also working with the Board to identify and source replacement ground cover.

Highland Property Development Along White River

The development that was proposed along the bluff of the White River at Highland Country Club has become null and void due to the Land Trust money raised matching the money the developer would pay for the property. The land will now be put into a Land Trust.

Spirit and Place

Spirit and Place theme this year is *Wondering to Where We Live*.

Molly Trueblood would like to schedule the Town Hall from 10:00 – 12:00 on November 12th for a free walk that will end at the Town Hall and thus allow participants to warm up and use the bathroom. If someone from the Town would like to speak, that would be appreciated. Mandy said this would be great and because it is a free event to everyone, that there will be no charge for the use of the Hall. Kandy will let Cathy Hurt know to put it on the calendar.

New Business

Email Server

Angie Hermann would like to transfer the Town's domain from WordPress so that emails could be associated with the Town's domain name, rather than being sent directly to individual's personal email accounts. The proposal would allow for if a person sends something to the Town or any of the Committees, it will go to a generic email and not to someone's private email account. Mandy wondered how the generic email would get to the correct person and would there need to be separate accounts. Angie said no but if something did come to your private email, then you could respond via the Rocky Ripple address and she can set up the generic email to automatically forward to private emails, as required. Jill moved that the Town's domain be transferred in order to use generic email addresses and Mandy seconded. All were in favor.

RRCA

Dhyana Raynor said the next meeting will be July 19th and that they are gearing up for the Festival, September 24th. The bands are all lined up as well as the sound person and the food vendors. At this time, they have 30 artists paid and will max out at 70.

Carla said she had possibly secured assistance from KIB and Butler students to work on Hohlt Park August 27th and help tidy up for the Festival. She asked that someone from the festival committee meet with her and the KIB and Student group in the near future to discuss what the students can do.

RREM

Did not meet this past month.

Town Marshal's Report

Marshal Mike said he has been busy attending meetings as the street commissioner to get plans in place for our Asset Management Plan; which is required for the INDOT grant. He also has attended meetings with the DIRT Committee and DNR to start work on our levee repairs.

Marshal Mike also reported that during the last thirty days there had been 2 theft reports as well as one domestic where a cell phone was taken.

Community Concerns

It was reported there were stinging insects in the volleyball sand and that we should look into this before the Festival.

Someone also reported that trash is being burned at 53rd & Patterson. Marshal Mike said he would talk to the resident about this.

Budget

Kandy asked the Board to set dates for budget meetings. It was decided that:

August 22nd, 5:00 will be our first meeting

September 15th, 7:15 will be the budget proposal meeting

October 11th, we will adopt the budget in the scheduled Town Board meeting.

With no further business, Jill moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:10. Mandy seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Kandy Kendall,
Clerk Treasurer