

Rocky Ripple Board Meeting
January 12, 2016

President, Carla Gaff Clark at 7:32, called the meeting to order. Kelly Scanlan, Town Attorney, swore in the newly elected board members, Carla Gaff Clark, Jill Morris and Mandy Redmond and clerk treasurer, Kandy Kendall.

Ms. Gaff-Clark announced that Ms. Kelly Scanlan had accepted a new position and that she could no longer represent the Town of Rocky Ripple due to the fact she was entering the government sector. Her new position will start in March so she can help out for the next six weeks. Ms. Gaff-Clark indicated we would advertise on the Indianapolis Bar Association webpage and narrow down the applications to two and conduct interviews.

Treasurer Report

Mandy Redmond gave the end of the year report and indicated we had usual expenses for the month of December. The Town has now paid all the back taxes owed and we have received a notification from the IRS assessing delinquency penalties of \$3114.85 for 2014 and early 2015 late withholding tax payments. Ms. Redmond indicated we are in pretty good shape and that we had received our property tax settlement of \$12,581.00. Our current assets are about \$87,000.00. Ms. Gaff-Clark moved that the treasurer's report be accepted as read and Ms. Morris seconded.

Secretary Report

Ms. Kendall read the minutes of the December 2015 meeting. Corrections were made. Ms. Redmond moved to accept the minutes as read with corrections and Ms. Morris seconded.

Tax Issue

Ms. Redmond stated we are up to date on 2015 tax payments.

Canal/DPW/Flood Protection

Ms. Redmond indicated that on the 14th of December, she got a call from Mike Massone from the City of Indianapolis stating that the City had decided to cancel the flood wall west bank alignment project. The City had put out a news release, which was provided to Ms. Redmond and forwarded to Rocky Ripple residents immediately upon receipt.

Ms. Redmond stated that we are back to where we were in 2013 with the alignment of the wall along the east bank of the canal; which is the option the Army Corp of Engineers had approved. Currently, there has been no communication on plans to move forward but she thinks Rocky Ripple will meet with Butler University, the City of Indianapolis and Butler Tarkington Neighborhood Association because many are still against the east bank site.

Ms. Redmond stated that this is good news for those in Rocky Ripple on the west bank of canal because they now will not lose their homes. However she also stated this is not a done deal and we still need to pull together. Ms. Gaff-Clark indicated that the worse scenario for Rocky Ripple is now off the table. She also felt that we have a lot more time due to budget restraints and time lines and that it is time to go back to the drawing board and start over. Ms. Redmond said she will now make this a priority of hers given we have a newly elected clerk treasurer.

Mary Chalmers, City of Indianapolis liaison to Rocky Ripple, said there is now a new team of players in the Mayor's office as well as DPW and they would like to know what the citizens think.

Those in the audience said we need to come together and get the entire community involved and show our concerns in a positive manner and not be angry and negative. There is power in a community united.

Again, Ms. Gaff-Clark stated we need to wait and see and come back in a new and positive step. It was stated that we still have work we need to do on the levee and that at our next meeting Engineer James Barnes will be here to talk to us about what we can do as citizens to maintain and improve our levee in its current condition.

Snow Removal

Ely Hinkle reported that we have had two snow incidents so far. Ely went out with Art Bracken and showed him his routine because Art will become the main snow plower for us since Ely has other things he must attend to.

Art went out today alone and it took him seven hours and this was for only two inches of snow. If we have between two and five inches of snow it takes another two hours to do the entire Town. Art feels he can take care of the snow removal and that we do not need any more volunteers at this time. However, we do have others in Town that are willing to help if needed.

Ely reported that the snowplow is old but if we handle it with care we can still get many years out of it. It was suggested that in spring we take off the dump bed and replace it with a stable flat bed since we really do not use a dump bed given that the hinges are rusted. Also, if the dump bed is off, we can look at the frame and see how much salt damage has been done. Once we remove the dump bed, we can change the way gas is added to the truck since the neck will be lifted up which will greatly decrease the time spent to fill the tank. The truck was purchased in 1999 and we have approximately 5000 miles on it and it is worth keeping.

Ms. Redmond indicated the gas card is ½ gone and we need to beef up the amount.

Ms. Redmond made a motion we put \$250-\$300 on the Marathon card and Ms. Gaff-Clark seconded. Marshall Kiefer will take care of the gas card.

Committee Reports

Ms. Morris read a letter from Dave Daugherty, current chair of RREM, stating he handed over the chairmanship to Andy Hazel as of January 7, 2016. Ms. Morris also indicated that for those who had taken RREM training in the past, you do not need to take the course again.

Dog Ordinance

Mary Chalmers from the City of Indianapolis stated that as of January 1st, there was a new ordinance concerning dogs left outside when the temperatures drop below 20 degrees. Basically, when the temperature is below 20 degrees, between the hours of 2300 and 0600 you cannot leave a dog outside that is tethered, sick, not neutered, without shelter and water. Ms. Chalmers left a copy of the Ordinance with the Town. Ms. Chalmers also indicated that Christmas trees are still being accepted at parks and that there is no curbside pick up.

RRCA

Ms. Redmond said Bingo is scheduled for January 23rd, February 19th and March 20th. The RRCA did get the approval of the gaming commission and that they cannot make more than \$3000/year.

Again there was talk as to whether the RRCA will continue with the Art Festival in 2016. Fortunately there are some new people willing to step up and become involved so the Festival will be held once again this year on September 24th.

Dhyana Raynor asked where the Town Board was with the idea of building an amphitheater/music stage since the cost of the tent every year for the music stage is \$2000. John Bleakley had presented his ideas about building a music stage. The Board is waiting for John to come back with more detail on the proposed project with drawings and cost. It was felt that it would take more than this year to get an amphitheater built. Therefore, Ms. Raynor said she would go ahead and reserve a tent for 2016. The Board has presented the idea to the Hohlt family, who continue to generously give to the park. Sandy Hohlt Kurker said she was ok with her portion of this year's donation going to an amphitheater and the Board is waiting on Rick Hohlt's approval concerning his portion of the donation.

Marshall Report

Marshall Kiefer reported there were two domestic disturbances. No tickets had been written last month.

Community Concerns

Carolyn Webster stated there is much beaver activity along the canal and that many of the old growth trees have been girdled. She did call the Water Company and in the past they have relocated the beavers. However, this year they are not doing anything & person she talked to did not seem to understand the problem. Carolyn also talked to persons at DNR who assured her the trees will grow back but this is not true because of the destruction of the girdling.

Ms. Gaff-Clark asked Ms. Chalmers if she had any suggestions and she said she would look into it and let us know. Ms. Morris said she too would make some calls.

Dhyana Raynor brought up a website, Homemetry, a Centrex division, whereby if she typed in her address on the computer, it reported that neither she nor any of her neighbors who are Caucasian are being listed as Caucasian. Board members stated that the town council had no control over what is published on external websites.

With no further concerns, Ms. Morris moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:43. Ms. Redmond seconded it.

Respectfully Submitted

Kandy Kendall,
Clerk Treasurer