

Edgewater Neighborhood Association

Board of Directors

Minutes of Meeting October 15, 2014, Rockford Country Club, taken by Secretary Bill Simpson

Present---John Beck, President; Tim Moore, Vice-President; Bill Simpson, Secretary; Dick Berman, Treasurer; Drew Williams, Webmaster; Barb Berman; Michael Goddard; Jake Hamil. There was a quorum. RPD Officer Eric Jones. Guests: B. J. Alexis, Jeanine Dabson Jesse Dabson, Patrick Goeckner, Ada Johnson, Coe Johnson, Jessica Johnson, Beth Parentice. Speaker: Gary Caruana.

Meeting called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Vice-President Tim Moore. (President John Beck arrived shortly afterward.)

1. General Neighborhood Comments---Jessica Johnson raised questions regarding garbage truck traffic in alleys. Dick Berman made clear that the Association is not financially or otherwise responsible for maintenance of alleys apart from snow-plowing. Drew Williams pointed out that, to save money, alleys are deliberately paved with material not strong enough to bear the weight of garbage trucks over time. Legally, homeowners are responsible for their alleys as "shared driveways"; the city has no obligation. Beth Parentice said that she and Patrick Goeckner had come to the meeting to learn about all this. Drew wants to put on the Association's Web site some sort of inquiry about the desires of the general run of residents as to the alley problem.
2. Community Services Report---Group A offenses in September, 6 (down from 8 in August); Group B offenses, 3 (down from 5); "Additional Department Activity," 3 (up from 2). Officer Jones described several crimes. There were 129 calls to the police from Edgewater in September, not all relating to crime. . . . Jessica Johnson asked about panhandler Douglas Jones. Officer Jones urged her to call the police when she sees D. Jones. . . . Coe Johnson asked how Edgewater compares with other neighborhoods as to crime rates. Answer: Very favorably.
3. Gary Caruana's Presentation---The Republican candidate for Winnebago County sheriff described in detail his former career in law enforcement and his subsequent employment by UPS. He has bachelor's and master's degrees, and is a Certified Fraud Inspector. He is active in Transform Rockford. Drew Williams asked about his relationship with Rockford police chief Chet Epperson and his opinion of the police and fire unions. Coe Johnson inquired about "hate groups."
4. Alderman's Report---Alderman (and President) John Beck, in response to Beth Parentice's question, said that the cost of repairing an alley ranges from \$10,000 to \$20,000 per block. Before an alley is repaired, the city council must vote to approve the project, even though the city does not pay for it. Drew Williams, emphasizing that each block with an alley is counted separately, said that there are 98 alleys in Edgewater.
5. Secretary's Report---Approved; Tim Moore so moved, Mike Goddard seconded.
6. Treasurer's Report---Net worth \$12,657.71. Snow plowing fund balance \$3,657.00. Assets (popcorn machine, sound system, two tents) \$905.19. Approved: Tim Moore so moved, Bill Simpson seconded.
7. Webmaster's Report---306 NextDoor. Drew Williams wondered if a projector could be used during board meetings to save time.

8. Newsletter---Juanita Hickerson, who has "family problems," does not intend to resign as editor, but needs help with the late fall issue.
9. Neighborhood Cleanup---Probably on a Saturday in late November. Barb Berman said that, if the date were settled well in advance, the Auburn High School Key Club---70 members---would participate.
10. Luminaria---Much talk about promoting this event. The sale is scheduled for Saturday, December 6.
11. Water and Plant Committee---Barb Berman called attention to the planters on Auburn Street Bridge---that they are quite well maintained.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m. Next meeting: Wednesday, November 19, 5:30 p.m., Rockford Country Club.