

# RNA Community Meeting Minutes

**January 30, 2023**

**7:00 p.m. at Salem Lutheran/Riverside Third Space and on Zoom**

Board Members in attendance: Rich Badmington (President), Jen McLaughlin (Vice President), Becca Charlton (Secretary), Joelle Woolston (Treasurer), and general members Jackson Fisher, Rachel Wagner, Jeff Brown, Jeff Dewberry

Number of Attendees: approximately 16 (in-person), 24 (on Zoom)

Next meeting: In-person only, Monday, February 27, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

## Rich Badmington, Welcome

Rich welcomed residents, introduced the RNA Board members, ran through the evening's agenda, and then welcomed updates from RNA committees.

## Jeff Dewberry, Public Safety

Jeff shared information on some recent crimes in the area, including but not limited to, a larceny and thefts from autos. He reminded everyone to please be careful, lock and empty your car, and stay aware of your surroundings.

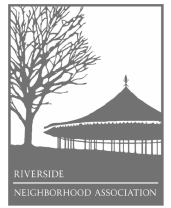
He reported that RNA was awarded a \$95,000 grant from the State of MD for several safety/security measures in the neighborhood. Riverside was awarded the full amount, the highest in the City, in part because our projects had complete cost estimates and had the support of our local Team 46 representatives as well as other area neighborhoods. The grant will cover the following:

- License plate reader for a key area coming onto or off of the peninsula. This will trigger a radio alert to police officers in the area if a license plate on a stop-list is identified entering or exiting the peninsula.
- Tapco pedestrian push buttons that will flash lights on stop signs when pedestrians are crossing at the intersection of Fort and Webster.
- Permanent low fencing in Riverside Park around flower beds to prevent trespassing and vandalism in the park.
- A new City Watch camera at the intersection of Fort/Lawrence or Fort/Key Hwy since those are common places for criminals to enter/exit the neighborhood

Rich noted that the grant was obtained entirely due to Jeff's leadership and effort, resulting in a round of applause from the group.

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Q: What are we doing to help address the needs of unhoused people around Riverside?

A: Jeff noted that the public safety grants don't cover support for homeless services.

Unrelated to the grant, Rich asked Rachel Wagner to share what typically happens when people settle into the park. She noted that neighbors often will reach out to the Mayor's Office of Human Services and they will support when possible. They've had varying success with people accepting services, even when the neighborhood has connected them with services.

Q: What businesses accept package deliveries in the neighborhood?

A: There are some Amazon lockboxes around, such as 7-11, Machado's, UPS Store (for UPS packages only, \$5/package or \$20/year, or rent a mailbox for higher cost), no known location for FedEx packages (you can reroute them to FedEx pickup locations online once you have an active tracking number).

## Jackson Fisher, Riverside Park & Construction Update

RNA collected three pickup truckloads of plants from the annual MANTS conference for the park and Thomas Johnson Elementary-Middle School. There are about 10 trees of various species, 45-50 perennial plants to refresh gardens. Most trees (6-7) went in over the last two weekends, such as a new tree on Heath by TJEMS, and 2 in the school playground area. We probably received \$5K worth of materials donated from suppliers at the event.

Rich thanked Jackson for his initiative and leadership on this annual effort.

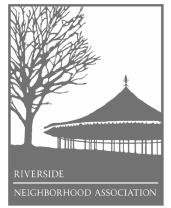
If you're interested in a street tree, contact/remind the Forestry office. They usually have a running list but it never hurts to check.

Tree Baltimore event this weekend at Vollmer Center at Cylburn Arboretum. There's a new tree coordinator and City Forester.

This morning the park project construction contractor said things are progressing as expected. They're currently working on infrastructure: supports for light stanchions, drainage pipes and stormwater connections. They began the foundation for basketball and pickleball courts, stormwater retention basins on Johnson St. side to treat/store water, poured concrete stands and staircase that will be built into and overlook the field. They are raising some of the elevation by the fence using topsoil to add uniformity to the grade. In coming weeks, on the 1800 block Johnson, the fence will move from the grassy area into the gutter on the edge of the asphalt. You will still be able to park there but the fence will be right along the parking area. To enable truck access to the site, there is a concrete square in the middle of Johnson St. taking 4-6

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parking spots. There have been no major issues so far and we're pleased to see continued progress.

## Rachel Wagner, Park & Public Safety Additions

The new Middlebranch Fitness and Wellness Center just over the Hanover Bridge in Cherry Hill offers swimming lap lanes and a climbing wall and zero entry pool area for young kids, basketball court, gym, classrooms, indoor walking track. Pay \$2 per swim through the same RecOne website as the outdoor pool, everything else is free.

She also acknowledged there was an attack by an off-leash dog on a leashed dog recently. She reminded the group that the City law is that all dogs must be on a leash, no longer than 6-ft., at all times. You can call 311 or Animal Service. There is a dog park at Latrobe and others in the City.

## Jeff Brown, Parking

The City Council is reviewing a new ordinance right now which we expect to pass within a month. It would eliminate the 2-hour visitor parking in evenings in our local Residential Parking Permit area (and essentially make it permit parking only). These restrictions would start at 6:00 p.m. For more information, see Area 30 signs as our area will match Area 30 times and restrictions. Right now enforcement is poor and requires multiple stops by enforcement officers before any action can be taken. Once the ordinance is passed, we can consider expanding RPP Area 48, which currently covers Battery to Light from Randall to Fort Ave.

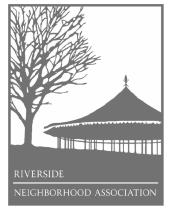
## Rich, Local Development

Rich provided updates on Southern Land Company's proposal which was presented at the October RNA meeting. They have a proposed multi-family development of 1302 Key Hwy between Anchor and Jackson Streets. They applied for a zoning variance with the City, which has not been scheduled for hearing, but indicates they are serious about this project since that was part of their plan to move forward. Since no further outreach to RNA has happened since the October meeting and no additional details have been shared, RNA is unable to support any development of the property until discussions resume.

Councilman Costello said the developer will need to work more directly with the neighborhood in order to move forward. We will set up a subcommittee for working sessions with the developer where we can bring up and address specific RNA concerns if/when they reach out. We will aim to get more complete answers and review the maturity of the plan. When ready, we will bring that information back to the larger community. If you have any specific questions or are interested in joining a potential working group, please email [RNABaltimore@gmail.com](mailto:RNABaltimore@gmail.com).

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Rich shared updates regarding Park Bench Pub, including that an eviction of the current operator has been ordered, which could be appealed (but is not expected to be) until Feb 11. The landlord is exploring a new operator for PBP. RNA asked to be engaged as early as possible to avoid any unnecessary issues up front. The landlord confirmed the building itself is not for sale.

## Special Guest: Gislin Dagnelie, Treasurer, Baltimore Rotterdam Sister City Committee

Gislin explained the Sister City relationship between Rotterdam and Baltimore. Both cities have similar pasts in industry and ship building, and are still lively, more merchant cities. They have been considered sister cities for the last 30 years.

Rotterdam gave Baltimore a gift—a harbor seal sculpture—that matches/mirrors one in on the river in Rotterdam. Why a seal? According to Gislin, the presence of seals indicates improved water quality, people like seals, and they made a comeback in Rotterdam as they have in a few East Coast cities (there are apparently some in NY Harbor and on the VA coast of the Chesapeake Bay).

The Sister City Committee has been working to identify a location for the sculpture. The Baltimore Museum of Industry (BMI) is interested because the sculpture is made of the same plate steel as many other elements in the BMI collection. The committee is now aiming for a new site for the sculpture on BMI grounds. In addition to the approximate 6-ft. sculpture, the committee wants to offer an educational program about improving water quality in Baltimore, which can be used by BMI visitors and in conjunction with other local educators and school programs.

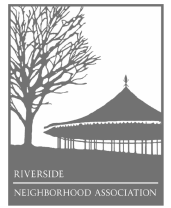
The sculpture is on BMI grounds now and they have obtained a Maryland State Arts Council grant to plan installation and maintenance. The committee is seeking additional funding from MSAC. MSAC wants to know about buy-in from the surrounding community, which is specifically Riverside.

There were no objections from any attendees, so Rich said RNA will be happy to provide a letter of support and said this effort might fit in well with a new RNA Sustainability subcommittee.

Opened for questions - none heard

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## Rich, RNA Committees

At our last business meeting, we introduced the idea of forming committees. Rich noted that the purposes of the committees include expanding RNA capacity, enabling proactive initiatives, enabling an easy “on-ramp” for new volunteers, and improving Board succession.

The Board agreed in subsequent conversations to constitute a handful of working groups or ad hoc subcommittees. See some simple guidelines for committees drafted some years ago by a previous Board member has been updated and is attached at bottom of this document.

Existing committees include:

- Development
- Park
- Parking
- Communications/Special Events

New committees include:

- Streetscapes/Sustainability (Jackson, Chair) - street trees, composting, runoff, etc.
- Grant Funding/Sponsorships (Jeff D., Chair) - SBGP and other opportunities, better when we're ready ahead of time
- Website (Rachel/Rich, Co-Chairs)
- Riverside Placemaking (Rich/Becca, Co-Chairs) - make Riverside more than a dot on the map, create a neighborhood identity and vision for the future

As always, please email [RNABaltimore@gmail.com](mailto:RNABaltimore@gmail.com) or speak directly with the chair for any committee you're interested in joining or supporting.

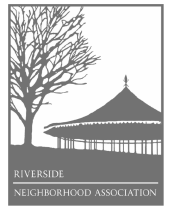
## Zoom Info Posted to the Chat

Matt Achhammer, Community Liaison for the Liquor Board, [matt.achhammer@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:matt.achhammer@baltimorecity.gov), cell: 410-241-6525 (call or text) – Licensed liquor establishment complaints - Use 311 (online/app recommended).

January Community Connection Newsletter: <https://bit.ly/3kYQrVq>

Rich opened the floor for questions or any new business. None was heard and the meeting was adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Rebecca Charlton, Secretary*  
*January 30, 2023*



## RNA Committee Guideline

Committees are organized and assembled to:

1. Advance the purposes and expand the capacity and capabilities of RNA,
2. Tap the talent and resources of interested members of the community, and
3. Welcome new leaders prepared to succeed Board members.

Committees, which report to and are chartered by the Board,

- Report on their progress at each Community Meeting;
- Work within the parameters spelled out in their Charter;
- Are chaired or co-chaired by a member of the Board;
- As necessary and appropriate, prepare recommendations for review and approval by the Board
- and the Community Members;
- Implement approved plans and initiatives.

Committees operate under the banner of RNA in their interaction with third parties (including Baltimore City government) and the community, and must comply RNA bylaws and obtain Board approval for actions that may impact the financial, legal, or reputational standing of RNA.

Committees, with prior RNA Board approval, may use the RNA banner for advertising, social media and website posts, and emails to RNA email list and paid membership.

Reasonable expenditures by Committees intended for reimbursement must be pre-approved in writing by an RNA Board member, and that member may require the approval by the full Board at any time. Receipts for expenses must be submitted to RNA before reimbursement will be paid.

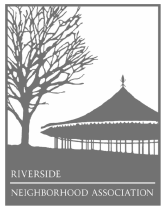
Ad Hoc Committees or Working Groups will be disbanded when their defined purpose and function, as expressed in their Charter, has been fulfilled, or at any time as determined by the RNA Board's sole discretion.

**Standing committees** are "function oriented" and serve a clearly defined, ongoing RNA function. Standing committees remain in force indefinitely. Current standing committees and chairperson(s) for each:

- o Development – Rich Badmington, Jen McLaughlin (co-chairs)
- o Park (Friends of Riverside Park) – Jackson Fisher
- o Parking – Jeff Brown
- o Public Safety – Jeff Dewberry
- o Communication – Rachel Wagner
- o Special Events – (blended: Jackson, Rachel, others)

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**Ad hoc committees** are “task oriented” and may be established to fulfill or pursue a specific project, which may include research, planning, and implementation of various initiatives. Ad hoc committees cease to exist once the task is complete. Current ad-hoc committees and chairperson(s) for each:

- o Streetscapes and Sustainability – Jackson Fisher
- o Grand Funding and Sponsorships – Jeff Dewberry
- o Website – Rachel Wagner
- o Riverside Placemaking – Rich Badmington
- o MARC Community Advisory Committee – John Paré

**Committee Charter**

Each Ad hoc Committee shall operate within the purpose and parameters set forth in a one-page written Charter, which shall articulate:

Purpose | Approach | Deliverables and Scope (possibly including what is out of scope) |  
Measures of Success | Membership | Roles and/or Responsibilities of Members | Timeline |  
Budget