

# RNA Community Meeting Minutes

**June 26, 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 Jeff Dewberry, John Pare (immediate past president), and Rachel Wagner

Next meeting: Monday, July 26, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

## Welcome, Rich Badmington

At 7:00 p.m. Rich called the meeting to order, welcomed residents, and introduced the RNA Board members.

## Public Safety, Jeff Dewberry

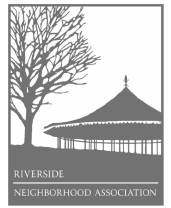
- Kia/Hyundai wheel locks are available for free at the Southern District Police Station, just south of the Hanover Street Bridge, across from the hospital. This is in response to the high incidence of theft of these brands due to manufacturer defects.
- Uptick of larceny of autos. Reminder to please file a police report even for low level crimes like package theft. Hard for authorities to take action without documented incidents and police resourcing decisions are based on data (i.e., reported crimes).
- Some recent issues of a houseless man who has been involved in a couple incidents at Riverside Park, including exposing himself. He is not believed to be living in the park but visiting somewhat regularly. Please call 911 if you see something and are concerned.
- Two daytime robberies at Jen's Place liquor store on Light St. by groups of juveniles on June 15 and 16 were reported.
- New stop signs at Fort/Covington and at Randall/Jackson. There is some foliage coverage of local stop signs; please submit 311 requests for these if you notice any.

## Development, Rich Badmington

Rich provided the latest update on 1302 Key Highway, noting that he had spoken with Eric Costello earlier this afternoon and he was informed that Mr. Costello had asked Southern Land Company, the owner/developer of 1302 Key Highway, "to go back to the drawing board." He is withdrawing both the rezoning bill and the Urban Renewal Plan amendment, so the proposed

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high-rise project is dead for the time being. We do expect them to come back at a future time with new ideas for discussion.

On behalf of RNA, Rich thanked Eric Costello, and Nancy Meade, for fulfilling their commitment that he would only support the bill if there was meaningful progress in discussions with the community. Ultimately, it was clear that the developer did not want to compromise at meetings with the community, which contributed to the withdrawal of the bills.

The RNA board had approved a joint statement with Federal Place detailing our objections to the zoning change. We also had prepared a draft joint statement opposing the URP amendment, but that is now moot for the moment.

Thanks to all the neighbors and local representatives who attended these meetings and offered your help, including new friends in Federal Place, Federal Hill, Sharp-Leadenhall, and Otterbein. Our board learned a lot about zoning and the URP. We will continue to research this and we welcome your support.

Rich also noted some other development-related opportunities for any interested volunteers:

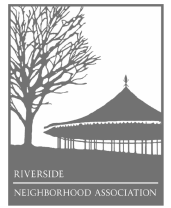
- Key Highway beautification project – getting a coalition of neighborhood associations and key institutions (AVAM, BMI, etc.) together to discuss some potential beautification and transportation safety improvements along Key Highway. This will be done in conjunction with Zac Blanchard, President of Federal Hill Association. RNA will take an interest as a Board because we have a high stake, including about 6 blocks of frontage. Would welcome volunteers.
- Baltimore Planning Academy. Participants learn the basics of land use, development, zoning, community planning, historic preservation, sustainability and more. Applications close June 30. The Academy will run weekly from September 13 - October 18, and include a mix of in-person and live online instruction.
- South Baltimore Gateway Partnership grant cycle is open; up to \$100K; \$5K clean and green grants available now, see [sbgpartnership.org](http://sbgpartnership.org) for more information.
- Reimagine Middle Branch enters its implementation phase, there are committee opportunities to keep Riverside's interests represented and our community informed.

## Other Riverside Committee Updates

- Riverside's Second Sunday Summer Concert Series is in full swing. See banners in the park and events on FB. Music is 5-8pm, there will be a food truck, and RNA sells raffle tickets.
- Riverside Park Pool is open. Every Wednesday 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. will be Adult only (18yrs+). Open 7 days/week, hours are 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., and 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Friday to Sunday. On Monday to Thursday, hours are noon - 3:00 p.m., and 4:00 - 7:00

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p.m. No reservations required, just an account with Civic Rec One. Attendance is free for all.

- Blood drive with Red Cross at BMI on Monday July 17, free admission to the museum with donation.
- Farmer's Market at BMI asked if RNA would like to set up a table at the market sometime during the season. Jen McLaughlin volunteered to run the table and asked for any volunteers who might be able to help with graphic design for a handout about the community we can offer at the table.
- Another volunteer opportunity: Baltimore Family Alliance which is coordinating family gatherings or community events at various parks and locations around the City. Storyteller, hula hoops, ice cream, stroller parade, painting workshop, science-guys, family-focused events. Local coordination will be helpful but they do most of the outreach.
- Upcoming event: Baltimore's Birthday Bash is on Friday, July 28 at Rye Street Market in Baltimore Peninsula! See more at <https://livebaltimore.com> › birthday

There was no other new business and Rich accepted a motion to adjourn and concluded the meeting.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Charlton  
June 26, 2023*