



# RNA Community Meeting Minutes

**March 25, 2024**

**7:00 p.m. at Salem Lutheran/Riverside Third Space (Hybrid: in-person via Zoom)**

Board Members in attendance: Rich Badmington (President), Jen McLaughlin (Vice President), Joelle Woolston (Treasurer), Jeff Brown, Connor Eagleson, Jackson Fisher

Members absent: Jeff Dewberry, Becca Charlton (Secretary), Rachel Wagner

## Welcome

RNA President Rich Badmington called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., welcomed approximately 20 in-person and 6 on-line participants, and introduced the RNA Board members.

## Public Safety/Police Update

Police Officers Smith and Owens presented recent crime statistics for the Riverside area. They reported details, including that, year-to-date, there have been year-over-year reductions in both violent and property crimes, but an increase in car thefts specifically.

In response to a question, the officers explained that “larceny” usually means a property theft that did not involve violence or threat of violence.

The officers also reported increases in police foot patrols, traffic stops, and business check-ins. They said that the bike unit will be deployed more as the weather improves.

The Board reported that an impromptu Safety Walk that was held 3/11 was well attended and included our City Councilman, two police officers, and members of the City’s new Park Rangers program. Ideas about future walks were discussed, and anyone with interest was encouraged to reach out to an RNA Board Member to become more involved.

## Election of New Board Member and Treasurer Connor Eagleson

Rich Badmington formally presented the nomination of Connor Eagleson to replace John Pare on the Board and to assume the role Treasurer, taking over for Joelle Woolston. Connor offered some remarks about his affinity for the neighborhood, his activities as a volunteer in the park, his years of residence including the purchase of a new home, and his education and professional expertise in finance.

Rich ask for approval by unanimous consent. There was no objection, and the Connor was elected to the Board and the Treasurer position.

## Social Media Volunteer(s) Needed

Rich noted that Rachel Wagner intends to step down from her role leading RNA’s social media as soon as a replacement or replacements can be found and trained. Rich asked for volunteers and noted the Board’s responsibility in identifying a successor. Rich noted Rachel’s exceptional contributions in this role (as well as the many others she fulfills) for the community.

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### Friends of Riverside Park committee report (Jackson Fisher)

Jackson reported that the City's new Park Rangers program has begun, and that they report their early efforts in Riverside Park have included talking to owners of off-leash dogs to issue verbal warnings, remind them of dog leash laws, and warn them of the fines that can be enforced.

In response to a question about the ongoing park renovations, Jackson explained that work on the "Red Shed" was underway and would include renovating and relocating the bathrooms as well as reconfiguration of the storage used by various stakeholders including City Parks and Rec, RNA, Friends of Riverside Park, various sports leagues, and the St. Ignatius and Thomas Johnson schools' sports programs.

Jackson noted that there will be a SOBO Green event in the park on the morning of April 21. Anyone interested in volunteering can register in advance online, or just show up to participate.

In response to a question, the Board encouraged anyone interested in the Summer Concerts in the Park efforts to reach out to an RNA Board Member to become more involved.

### Parking (Jeff Brown)

Jeff reported that the City has not yet installed new signs (reflecting new enforcement hours) on the blocks in Riverside that have Residential Permit Parking (RPP)

Jeff reminded anyone on a block adjacent to an existing RPP block who is interested in expanding RPP to their block can reach out to an RNA Board Member to become more involved.

### Development (Rich)

Rich reported that representatives of the MARC train facility adjacent to the southern end of Webster Street have committed to maintain regular communications with RNA, starting with biannual meetings (April and October) concerning the impact of their operations on our neighborhood.

In response to a question, Rich reported that RNA has heard no new news about the old gas station site at 1302 Key Highway since City Council bills related to a possible redevelopment were withdrawn. Rich also noted that the operator of Verde Pizza at the site has expressed an interest in hosting an RNA social meeting later this year.

In response to a question, Rich noted that there are various stakeholders interested in possible traffic-calming and walkability improvements along Key Highway, but no public efforts are underway currently due to a lack of funding.

### Placemaking (Rich)

Rich spoke about the (relatively) new Placemaking Committee, which is working with volunteers and pro-bono partners on a variety of initiatives, including street pole banners, RNA's social media presence, and potential meet-your-neighbor walk events. Participants in the meeting suggested incorporating local schools in the committee's efforts. The Board encouraged anyone interested in any type of Placemaking efforts or ideas to reach out to an RNA Board Member to become more involved.

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### **Community Comments**

Samantha Rose, new Restoration Manager at South Baltimore Gateway Partnership provided an update on several SBGP activities.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned shortly before 8:00 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jen McLaughlin (for Rebecca Charlton)  
April 1, 2024)*