



RNA Community Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2025

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83025276168?pwd=WUIZZXZKKys1aEdCTlQ1ZEtlEo0dz09>)

Board Members in attendance: Jeff Dewberry (President), Jeff Brown (Vice President), Becca Charlton (Secretary) *virtual*, Connor Eagleson (Treasurer), Jackson Fisher, Liam Durfee

Board Members absent: Laurie Scudder

Welcome

RNA President Jeff Dewberry called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., welcomed residents and on-line participants, and introduced the RNA Board members in attendance. He welcomed our two new board members to their first community meeting since March's election.

Our agenda:

1. Reports from standing committees (Treasurer, Park, Parking, and Development, etc.)
2. Reports from our ad hoc committees (Placemaking)
3. Special Guest Delegate Luke Clippinger, Team 46
4. New Business

BPD Update

Sgt Rivera joined us and shared that all reported major crimes are down 100% compared to the same dates last year. RNA noted a shooting on Charles St that was not included in the BPD report. Other recent car incidents were also noted and BPD shared that one suspect was identified and some video footage has been shared so it is under investigation.

RNA reminded neighbors to report any package theft and share any video footage of crimes with BPD to support investigations

Friends of Riverside Park (Jackson)

The concert in July went well and the next is August 10th. Remember that we make the weather call by noon on the event day so watch social media if there are weather-related questions.

Hope everyone has taken advantage of the pool, which is free, you just need a City Rec and Parks account. Double check timing and remember it is closed Mondays unless it's a Code Red day.



BCRP is working on park irrigation issues and finishing the punchlist on red field house, which we believed would be complete by the 4th of July. It's not clear that BCRP has the knowledge necessary to run the irrigation system effectively, so RNA is concerned and tracking possible overwatering issues. There is concern that overwatering may lead to nutrient depletion and we are engaged and requesting soil tests to ensure proper maintenance.

Please let Jackson know of any street tree issues such as pruning needed to keep sidewalks clear.

A resident asked about litter in the basketball court. It was noted that there were not enough trash cans included in the renovation so RNA is working to add cans; unfortunately they are not on the regular trash truck route so cans need to be kept close to the truck route.

A follow up question on trash vs recycling - city planned to execute single stream collection, which never happened, so the double cans in the park are really all trash, no recycling. A neighbor asked that we get matching/all trash lids because it's confusing that it looks like half are for recycling. RNA will look into the cost of swapping for all trash lids.

Placemaking - Laurie

With Councilman Blanchard's support, we finally got the street banner locations approved through the City. You may have seen window signs popping up in residences, and we expect about a dozen matching street banners to go up imminently. We're very excited for this to finally move forward as this effort began a year ago.

Public Safety

There is a Public Safety Bike Ride Aug 16 with FHNA that will go around a bunch of South Baltimore neighborhoods.

We're coordinating audible pedestrian signal work coming for Lawrence St to support low-vision and all our NFB neighbors.

Working this weekend to identify additional intersections around the neighborhood that need crosswalks.

Development

No Development Updates to report.

Del Luke Clippinger, Team 46, member of House, chair of House Judiciary Committee

Luke discussed some efforts that Team 46 is working:



- Vacancy and in rem foreclosure - if what you owe in taxes and fees is greater than property value, the city can foreclose on it and put it to other use. About 1000 properties are currently in this process but it takes significant effort. Once documented and ready, they need to go before a judge and there's only one right now who can hear these cases, so the City is working to get an additional judge.
- Del Lewis working on behalf of breastfeeding women who are called for jury duty, either to provide facilities or an opportunity to excuse them during this time.
- Del Edelson working truancy issues with Brewer's Hill to work programs to bring kids back to school rather than lock them up
- Riverside Park Pool - needs significant work for the poolhouse and pool; they are identifying funding to work on engineering plans

Q&A

Q: Can you speak to High School kids and the lack of transportation?

A: The City bus system changes every few years; ultimately not serving key communities, it's still an issue we need to work, but it's not easy.

Q: Baltimore Peninsula update on transportation options? It's dangerous getting there as a pedestrian.

A: Luke agreed there aren't good options right now, either on McComas St side or Hanover St side, and it's an issue that needs to be solved. As is the Hanover St bridge and connecting the neighborhoods south of the river. Neighbors noted that the Cherry line of the Circulator does go between Riverside and Baltimore Peninsula.

New Business

Rebecca Mark from Mayor Scott's Office noted the work the City is doing on Overdose Responses, including several listening sessions this month. This work was funded with settlements from opioid companies and will be continuing

Adjournment

The next meeting will be in September, August is off with so many people out of town.

The meeting was adjourned by 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Charlton

RNA Secretary

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