

OSW August 17, 2023 Community Meeting MINUTES

Attending: Bill Dandridge (pres), Terry McGuire (VP), David Jeavons (treas), Mary Anne Mather (sec), Julie Mugford, Cara Becker, Simon Wolf, Annmarie Drake

Absent: Richard Normand, Elaine Fleck, Lynn Speno

attending: ~35-40 neighbors, including Tanya Anderson (Roanoke code department)

6-6:30 Social, Host: Cara Becker

6:30 Welcome & Who's New (President's welcome)

ANNOUNCEMENTS REVIEW (president)

- **TY Cara Becker:** Host of tonight's refreshments. [Shasbergers 9/21/2023](#)

- **UPCOMING OSW EVENTS:** Online Calendar is live at oldsouthwest.org/events

--9/9 **Pocket Park Garden Prep:** 8-11, 653 Day Ave SW (corner of 8th St.)

--10/7 **POCKET PARK WORKSHOP & BLOCK PARTY:** Native Perennials Planting, 9-noon, 653 Day Ave & 8th St. Contact stephen.terry.mcguire@gmail.com. Then celebrate! OSW Fall Block Party, 12:30-4:30. 500 block of Day Ave. BYOB & dish to share.

--12/2 & 3 **OSW Parlor Tour Fundraiser**

Pre-event, reduced-price online ticket offers coming. Stay tuned!

--**POSTPONED** until 2024: September Pocket Park Fundraiser

- **PLEASE HELP!** Volunteers needed on Gish House committee!

TY Lynn Speno for arranging.

PRESENTER

Parviz Moosavi, Historic Preservation Planner, Architectural Review Board (ARB) Facilitator
City Planning, Building & Development Department (started 10/2014)

--Explained how this all began

Neighborhood advocates in the 1970s were concerned about loss of historic properties. Approached city council. Created H-1 (downtown) & H-2 (OSW, Patterson Ave, Gainesboro, Mountain View) historic districts. And ARB was created/design guidelines created.

--What does it mean to be a local historic district?

Must comply with city zoning and additionally with ARB Design Guidelines. Painting is not regulated (but it is in downtown). Tax incentives for National Historic Districts (tax incentives: 25% federal money, 20% city). A certificate of appropriateness is required for all external changes to properties (both minor and major projects). Parviz can sign off on minor changes. Major projects must go to board. Permits are required for anything larger than 100sq ft. Larger projects take about a month or more to approve. Smaller projects can be approved by Parviz in

a day or two. Owners must fill out a request for all projects must Certificate of appropriateness is good for 1 year. Should be publicly displayed.

Roanoke is a Certified Local Government: Can apply to state for resources to support certain projects (currently working on getting Norwich neighborhood identified as a National Historic District.

--What is the Architectural Review Board (ARB) & how does it function?

ARB members appointed by City Council: 4-year terms, 3 consecutive terms allowed. Meets: 2nd Thursday monthly, 5PM.

--What happens when Design Guidelines are not followed, and how City Code Enforcement fits into the picture.

City Code is contacted if no COA is displayed or approved. Have 10 days to contact Parviz. Non-compliance cases (after 20 days) would get summoned to court. The judge makes a decision about a fine. No limit to fines.

--Looking to make improvements:

- Communication with residents/outreach (letter to new property owners?)
- Periodic inspections on COAs (do not wait until the end)
- Considering allowing extension of COAs for additional 2 years if needed.
- Issues: Changes related to gutters, solar panels, roofs, windows (must be in disrepair condition or not allowed to replace/suggest internal storm windows)
- The Design Guidelines are under review (last updated in 2011)—learn the process and status of the review. Looking at what is missing in the design guidelines.
- Add appendix to Design Guidelines (include the forms, samples of acceptable window and roofing products)
- Hold annual meeting with City Council (better coordination is needed)
- New guidelines will not include paint colors or landscaping

Questions:

--Update: Property at 716 Marshall will be demolished and rebuilt to look externally like the original building. Demolition permit is in process. A reputable contractor has been secured (Prescott Construction).

--Absentee Owners: e.g. 522 Day (Last year Betsy Nixon submitted a proposal trying to establish vacant property taxes/did not go through the legislature. Hope to try pushing this again for reconsideration.) Asked Parviz to bring it before city lawyers.

OSW BUSINESS

Approval of minutes from 6/15/2023 and 7/20/2023 PASSED

Announce: Interested in what OSW has been doing on behalf of our neighborhood? All Community Meeting minutes are available at: <https://oldsouthwest.org/osw-minutes>

1. Neighborhood Safety Officer Underwood, OSW community resource officer (CRO) for southside (OSW, SE, SoRo) asked for quick feedback. Hopes to attend September meeting. --Please let everyone know that we conducted RESET walk on King George Ave in early August. Met with several residents to offer resources related to area shooting. Anyone affected who still needs support, contact Officer Underwood directly. jacob.underwood@roanokeva.gov

--Homeless encampment & trash issues in Highland Park were referred to Parks and Rec due to their daily interactions with cleanup and maintenance. They will keep Underwood updated. Calls for service for the park have gone down. If other issues are noted, Officer Underwood requests: jot down date, time, circumstances to document. Pictures at the time of occurrence can also be beneficial.

2. COMMITTEE UPDATES (as needed/available)

A. Environmental Protection, Parks, Greenspace (Green Committee) (Terry McGuire/MA Mather)

- *Two grants from the City were awarded to support Pocket Park development: Neighborhood Development Grant (\$4750) & Spark Plug Grant (\$1000) for water/plant installations, May occultation workshop. Mary Anne Mather contacted Wayne Leftwich in July re: funds. MOUs and funds still pending. Expected in August.*

- *VA Federation of Garden Clubs Beautify & Restore grant funds (\$1000) coming from Town & Country Garden Club to OSW for Pocket Park plant budget.*

- *Plants ordered to establish hedgerows & native perennial gardens at October 7 work party. Town & Country & Star City garden clubs will join OSW neighbors for planting.*

- *Pocket Park Workday: Sat, Sept 9, 8-11: Remove occultation material & prep beds for Oct. 7 planting day. Please join us!*

- *Trees Roanoke planting in December: there will be a sign-up link soon. Please ask if you want one. Will be mapping where trees have been planting.*

B. Gish House (Julie Mugford)

- ***Neighborhood assistance needed!***

- To promote Gish rental events. Need 10-12 rentals per year. Request: Please “share” promo on their own social media. Promotional rack cards available in foyer. Proceeds support Gish maintenance.*

- Neighbors needed to volunteer as “Friends of the Gish House” maintenance support team. Please sign up!! See Simon Wolf.*

- *\$10,000 long-shot grant submitted to support needed maintenance costs. Pending.*

C. Historic Preservation (Lynn Speno)

- *2 OSW reps attended recent ARB meeting*

- OSW rep, Lisette Stone, regularly attends if OSW issues on the agenda.

D. Community Outreach (Stephanie Bilbrey)

- "Welcome Box" created and monitored by Stephanie Bilbrey, Community Outreach Community lead. A welcome table was set up at May and July OSW events. Purpose: get acquainted, give out OSW, Inc. info, handout info magnets, collect names for OSW newsletter.
- New neighbor welcome process created. New home owners are identified, and OSW welcome letters delivered with OSW, Inc. information and an invitation to get involved.
- Asked for recommendations for identifying new residents.

E. Safety (Cara Becker)

- Collaborative National Night Out Plawk & Party was held August 1 (OSW, SE, SoRo with Officer Underwood) Thank you to Terry and Simon for representing OSW.
- Increased patrols at Southwest Market seems to have had some effect
- Future issues: Discuss crosswalk/stop sign strategy

F. OSW Events Line-up (Mary Anne Mather)

All are invited & encouraged to get involved!

- 9/9 Pocket Park Garden Prep: 8-11, 653 Day Ave SW (corner of 8th St.)
- 10/7 **POCKET PARK WORKSHOP**: Native Perennials Planting, 9-noon, 653 Day Ave & 8th St. Contact stephen.terry.mcquire@gmail.com.
- 10/7 Fall Block Party: 12:30-4:30, 500 block Day Ave. May include live music! BYOB & dish to share.
- 12/2 & 3 Parlor Tour: Look for online ticket sales and early bird promos.
- **POSTPONED** until 2024: September Pocket Park Fundraiser

3. Other business as time permits.

Adjourn 7:50PM
