

MINUTES OF RHIA ANNUAL MEETING – MAY 22, 2019

Wednesday May 22, 2019 at Sunnyside Christian Church, NE corner of Constitution and Murray

Welcome and call to order by Board President, Doug Eberhart, at 7:10 and to allow all Improvement Association members paying their dues to find a seat.

Doug introduced the first guest speaker, Marty Benson of CAPS (Community Advancing Public Safety) who discussed Neighborhood Watch. Marty summarized recent crime issues in our community especially the recent home invasion on April 11, 2019 on Half Moon and reported the young adults involved were arrested one week later. Marty explained we have a Crime Prevention Officer who is liason between our communities and their neighborhood watch organizations and the Colorado Springs Police Department at Stetson Hills (719-444-3140). She also explained that there are only 40 Colorado Springs Police Officers for our city of 500,000 so Neighborhood Watch can also be the eyes and ears of the Police in our community. Marty introduced Chiam Goldman (a Rustic Hills resident on Payton) who is interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch in Rustic Hills and sent around a clipboard for others who are interested to begin setting one up here. Neighborhood watch can help neighbors watch their property when out of town, even pick up packages left to thwart porch pirates. The time commitment in meetings is minimal and information gleaned in these meetings can help residents respond to suspicious activity as well as provide an opportunity for the Colorado Springs Police Department to provide community outreach. Marty also stated that neighborhood Watch signs on homes and on the street provide a deterrent to crime as well. Marty recommended two block captains for our neighborhood watch with Chiam Goldman volunteering to be one.

Doug announced the “Meet you neighbors Day” promoted by the Board and coming up on June 8th, 2019 from 10am to 2pm as a good opportunity for neighbors in Rustic Hills to meet (to help create a better sense of community and to provide contact information if desired) as another way of looking out for each other.

Doug also reviewed the Neighbors by Ring app which can allow neighbors to provide video and test information to their neighbors as another way of keeping everyone informed and deterring crime in Rustic Hills.

The Board is also recommending getting Rustic Hills windshield decals to put low on the passenger side of the front windshield or in front of the review mirror to identify cars of Rustic Hills residents.

The next guest speaker was Michael Hensley who discussed the City’s road/utility construction plans. He stated that phase one of the project was to pave West Brady from Constitution past the second intersection with Payton, pave Payton from Brady north to Constitution, pave Lazy R Lane from Rocking R Drive to Constitution, and to pave Brady’s east intersection with Constitution also back to Rocking R Drive. He stated every road in Rustic Hills would eventually be paved as the City’s budget allows.

Mr. Hensley discussed in response to questions that the paved roadway would be 20-22 feet wide with 6-10 feet of sand multimodal path/swale/drainage alongside. He also reviewed that some trees and fences will be removed and new driveway cuts and culverts will be installed at the City’s expense and that the driveway disruption should not be for more than a day and the residents will be informed when

it will occur. For those with second driveways the City will not pay for a second culvert but will offer to let residents buy a second culvert for the City to install at the contractors cost.

Mr. Hensley also stated he would keep the Board informed of his schedule and would also work not to close more than one exit from the neighborhood at a time and would also communicate such closures with Janice of the trash coalition so that she can inform Waste Management and he will notify schools and other trash companies of the closures. Questions were taken from the floor about the schedule and he hoped to be complete with phase one by September 2019. Utility work (storm water improvements and a new water main) is being done now with paving to follow. Work will be done Monday through Friday 7am to 6pm but not on holidays. In response to questions of what might be removed as the roadway is prepared Mr. Hensley also recommended looking at the El Paso County Assessors website which shows individual property lines vs City right of ways but he also stated that mailboxes would be replaced if needed and that trees would be spared whenever possible. Property would be restored to it's original condition per the contract.

Doug then thanked the presenters and provided notice that with recent storms and closures that the trash pickup would be delayed till Friday 5/24 by Waste Management.

President Doug then provided a synopsis of the 5 page year-end report mandated by the Rustic Hills bylaws to monitor road maintenance and then reviewed the multiple meetings Board members and especially Doug had had with the City Roads Department. Then he reviewed the recommendation to enforce and review the covenants which the Board has attempted even when the City itself doesn't enforce its own zoning regulations (as evidenced again by variances being granted again for outbuildings larger than the homes they are built next to). He reported that the covenants are 50 years old and have not been updated though an attempt was made by previous Boards. He reported that this may be an option to pursue in the future. He reviewed the fact that we live in a bubble surrounded by higher crime (and higher density) and that the recommendations tonight about Neighborhood Watch and the Ring Neighbors app were reviewed tonight. He discussed the present Board's work on updating the website and hopefully these improvements will be implimented soon. Doug discussed the Rustic Hills Board's community activities including the successful Picnic, Cleanup, Halloween hayride. He also discussed the need to vote on dues at this meeting and reminded the audience that they at \$25 yearly have not been increased in 40 years and amount to about \$2 a month or about 7 cents a day. He discussed the Academy Blvd. Revitalization meeting and reported one Community member is attending and posited that the City's goal is to switch the commercial zoning along North Academy west of our community to high density housing. He reported that there were two Newsletters written by Doug this year. Doug also discussed the 4 standing committees; Architectual, Roads and Trails, Hospitality, and the Trash Coalition. In addition there were 2 committees required by the bylaws which were successfully staffed and who completed their assignments which were the Auditing Committee and the Nominating Committee with Stacie's husband providing a synopsis of the Auditing Committee (see below) and with Jim providing the Nominating Committee's recommendations (see below).

Questions were taken from the Board with one resident questioning why the Board is not communicating the City's Road maintenance plans. Doug explained that the City has not provided a plan any more complete than provided here tonight and that the Board has not had input on the plan provided tonight by the City. Harry also explained that the Community meetings chaired by the City about options for their road maintenance plan were widely advertised and at those meetings all options that the City provided including paving all the roads. In addition the final plan was never voted on or approved by the "community focus group" as the final meeting was cancelled (maybe because it would have been voted down).

Another question was taken from the floor about all the downed limbs from the recent storms and since the chipping days provided by the City is not till August that options included taking limbs to Rocky Top in exchange for donation (food donation) and that all limbs will be accepted except juniper or fitzer limbs. Please call them to review their limitations (719-579-9103). Another option is Black Forest Slash Mulch (please call them for cost and limitations 719-520-7878).

A tentative Schedule for 2019 RHIA Events was provided :

Sat. June 8th: Meet the Neighbors Day 10am-2pm

Sat. July 13th: RHIA Neighborhood cleanup Day with dumpsters hosted by Brad and Wanda Steininger – no limbs please as they fill up the dumpster

Mon. August 5: (week of) City Wood Chipping Program- pile branches on the street and please register for pickup and for limits on size of limb piles: [http://www. Springsgov.com/wildfiremitigation](http://www.Springsgov.com/wildfiremitigation)

Sat. September 7: RHIA Annual Barbecue and Car Show hosted by Tom and Marion Hartig

Thur. October 31: RHIA Halloween Hayride in Filing 2.

The Treasurer's Report for Fiscal year ending on April 30, 2019 was provided after the Nominating Committee report noted that the Rustic Hills Board finances and the Trash Coalition finances were reviewed on April 27, 2019 with the report provided by Stacie's husband in her absence noting the finances were complete and compiled according to generally accepted accounting principles.

The proposed budget was reviewed by Doug and a vote to approve the budget was proposed and seconded and after discussion a call for closure and was announced and seconded. The budget was approved by the members by a show of hands.

The vote to set the 2020-2021 RHIA dues was then presented. Recommendation to increase the dues due to the limitations of a very tight budget which has not changed for 40 years with Board and community members often providing donations to balance costs for events was presented by Doug. Doug also mentioned that the budget does not provide for legal costs to help with the Architectural Committee work , etc. A proposal was provided and seconded from the floor to keep the dues at \$25 dollars yearly and was voted down. A proposal to increase the dues to \$50 a year was provided and seconded with this proposal approved by a vote (show of hands) from the floor.

The vote to fill the Board positions was then announced with the Jim announcing the Nominating Committees recommendations to maintain the Board Officers for another one year term. Nominations were taken from the floor. For filing 1 Roy Thompson was proposed and seconded to fill an opening and Miriamber Daignealt was proposed and seconded from filing 2 and the present officers and Board Officers were nominated and seconded as there were no others willing to serve and a vote was taken by the membership and all approved : President Doug Eberhart, Vice President Eric Younger, Secretary Tammy Farris, Treasurer Tracy Lee , continuing Filing 1 Board member with one year remaining Jamie Wilson, continuing Filing 1 Board member with two years remaining Stacy Sahlstrom, continuing Filing 2 Board member with one year remaining Jim Kelly, and continuing Filing 2 Board member with two years remaining Brad Steininger.

Questions and comments were taken after the vote with Janice from Red Oaks noting that the costs for the Website improvements and updates may exceed the \$50 a month provided by contract from the Board.

Thanks from Doug and the audience was given to the past Board for their service and the new and continuing Board members were introduced on stage and then the meeting was adjourned.