

RPCC General Meeting Minutes April 11, 2016 - Rolando Park Elementary School

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Sonia Lang.

Lynn Edwards gave the **Treasurer's Report**, informing us that Kathryn Kern has been working on increasing **membership**. Now we have 77, up from 49, 31 of which are new. The total budget has risen to \$1759.10. Kathryn is doing a pop-up membership drive on Saturday, April 23rd. Watch for her!

Audrey Ledesma spoke briefly about AB700, which, if passed, will better inform us who is paying for bigpolitical ads, and circulated a petition for those who were interested.

Next, our community liaison from *Mayor Faulconer's* office, **Darnisha Hunter**, told us policies about minidorms are being worked on currently. An audience member was concerned about the increase in streetparking; *Darnisha* will research whether or not there is a limit to spaces in a neighborhood. Following a discussion about a new Charger Stadium, she also reminded us that communities should email their opinions to the mayor so he knows what his constituents want!

Our **guest speakers** were Heather Erwin and Kathryn, who gave an excellent and inspiring presentation of **Transition Streets**, an initiative started and focused on improving our environment and changing our lifestyles so we can minimize our dependence on fossil fuels. Transition Streets started in the UK in 2005 and after came to the US in 2014. Rolando Park formed a Transition Streets group in 2016 and is made up of neighbors working together and sharing ideas on how to reduce costs in energy, water, food, transportation and waste. Ideas from the Transition Streets workbook are discussed and neighbors share ideas, referrals and rebate information on things such as rain barrels, solar energy, gardening, composting, and more. There is a private Transitions RP group on Nextdoor but invitations provided to the neighborhood and anyone can join. For members who join, Transition Streets US is currently tracking an average of 2600 pounds of carbon saved each year per household! On April 16th the group will meet to discuss grey water, rain barrels, and other water conservation ideas. They reminded us that we have to learn to live with less, because *in the future no one will be able to afford to live with more*.

Contact either Heather or Kathryn if you are interested in coming to a meeting. Anyone is welcome to come to a single meeting or attend all of them!

Following was *John Hartley*, who spoke here in October of 2014, with **Clean Elections**. This group is working towards campaign finance reform, along with unifying neighborhoods so people can work together to decide what to fight for city wide. There will be a meeting June 4 from 9-12 at the FirstUnitarian Church in Hillcrest. John, the Campaign Coordinator, passed out a flyer with contribution ideas. Call him at 619-299-8870 or email him at hartley2k@aol.com if interested.

Officer Dennis Clay, Battalion Chief of the San Diego Fire Department, spoke next. He gave us some great **safety tips** in regard to spring cleaning: be safe with chemicals (don't mix them!), and be safe on ladders and in attics. Also, be VERY careful with candles. Every 30 minutes in our country there's a housefire started from a candle!!

Then Katie Sadd, from Councilmember Myrtle Cole's office, told us she would be getting an update soon about the "goat trail" sidewalk, also about the joint use project at Rolando Park Elementary School. Then she presented **Betty White with a special commendation** for her tireless commitment to her neighborhood, and stressed how much she would be missed by everyone in the district. It was an emotional moment.

Another emotional moment followed when Sonia Lang called up the board and presented Betty with a Certificate of Appreciation for all her hard work and excellent leadership. Flowers were brought up, too. Betty thanked everyone and said some heartfelt words. Then everyone was invited to have a piece of a beautiful,

delicious cake, cookies, and candies, and spend some time with Betty before she moves on to North County.