

RPCC General Meeting Minutes September 12, 2016 Rolando Park Elementary Room 25

7:00 President **Sonia Lang** called the meeting to order.

Lynn Edwards informed us that we have 96 members, up from last year, with \$1159 from dues and \$927.10 from donation in the treasury.

Block Party: Gerrie Flaven reported that there will be no Block Party, because there is not enough participation to go forward. She has worked very hard and has reached out a number of times for volunteers to no avail, except for the original two. The Opportunity Drawing, although sounding promising, was not successful. She suggested that individual blocks may want to have their own parties.

Gerrie then reminded us that she and Kathryn Kern are the Nominating Committee, and the board members needed are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Member(s) at Large. In addition, we need volunteers for the quarterly newsletter, FaceBook page, and web site.

Sonia Lang told the group that, through the help of Sam's Club manager Jenny Zepeda, we received a Walmart grant of **\$1000**. We will be taking suggestions on what it would be spent on for the betterment of the community.

Welcomed Guests

Anthony DeLuca, new Principal of Rolando Park Elementary, explained briefly how he came to our local school. He then spoke about the exciting improvements he has already helped achieve at the school, including the presence of a **full-time counselor** (up from one day a week last year) and the offering of "**pre-K for all**," with cost based on a sliding scale. Also, a **garden and trees** will be planted in place of the two bungalows that were removed this summer. In addition, a **joint-use field** on the lower playground will be completed in 2019 for the use of both the school and the community. A meeting will be held this Wednesday at 6:30 in the school auditorium to introduce the plan. Later this fall, a more thorough meeting will be held at Los Colinas that will welcome community input. There was some discussion about why we weren't notified earlier about the Wednesday night meeting.

Katie Sadd, from Council Member Cole's office, was also not notified of this meeting. She addressed an email concerning whether or area could become a HUBzone to attract certain business, and found out that at this time we don't meet the criteria. She suggested we contact Juan Vargas's office for further information. She addressed the traffic problem on Vista Grande from Racine to Celia Vista. It has been determined that **traffic calming** measures ARE needed on that street, but funding is still not available. She suggested that a four-way stop at Vista Grande and Marlowe could be the best solution to those present, and a request for the four-way stop will be addressed by the EACPC.

Lee Hernandez, from Assembly Member Shirley Weber's office, briefed us on the passage of a variety of bills, and told us of some coming up to watch for.

Audrey Ledesma let us know that SB1107 passed, but AB700 did not quite pass. She discussed SB254 that will overturn Citizens United. The goal is to get money out of politics. A good web site for information is VotersEdge.com.

Presentation - Kroc Center Expansion

Major Rick Peacock has been at the Salvation Army Kroc Center for 5 years, and from a family involved with the Salvation Army for four generations, himself for 36 years. He informed us that the **9 million dollar project** will add an additional 17,311 feet of facility and 132 much needed parking spaces. It will include an elevated sports deck, with arena soccer, along with an expanded wellness center. That center will be one story above the level of the sports deck. The Kroc Center often has as many as 2600 door entries a day. The hope is for construction to begin by the end of 2017, once enough money has been raised, and will be completed in about 10 months.

Some **concerns** were then voiced. First, Roxanne Kynaani said her property will then look down on a roof instead of a grass field, and suggested that a garden of some sort be planted on top of the building. Another concern was about whether or not traffic in the neighborhood might be affected. Lastly, people are worried about the construction noise early and on the weekend. Major Peacock took notice of our concerns.

Sonia Lang ended the meeting by reminding us that the next meeting will present **Bill Tall**, from City Farmers Nursery, and will be on October 10.