

MINUTES OF THE RANA BOARD MEETING

Monday June 03, 2019

6:30 p.m.

1800 N. Stanton

Board Members in attendance: Emily Brockhoff, Bob Brannon, Cathi Banda, Denise Kroeker, Flip Lyle, Renee O'Donnell, Robert Ardivino, Sajir Haribhai, Cindy Carr

Board Members absent: John Moye, Risher Gilbert, Kate Gannon, Larry White, Rosanna Patton, Lynn Westbrook, Tom Casey, Victor Urbina, Mary Jane Perkins

Guests: Mr. Raymond Telles, Ms. Martina Lorey, Architect

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Emily Brockhoff as President welcomed the members present and introduced the guests who were invited to attend.

2. **Sun City Bike Share.** Mr. Raymond Telles was present to discuss with the members the Sun City Bike Share initiative. He explained that the program is a bike share program in El Paso that manages the red docks and rentable bicycles that operate in the El Paso Area. As of 2019 there are sixteen (16) stations in place with three new proposed stations to be located at 1) Tom Lea Upper Park (which affects RANA), 2) Mission Hills Park, and Gray Dog. Mr. Telles reported that bike stations are not placed where they are not wanted, but stated that placement at the Upper Tom Lea Park would connect, Madeline Park, Kern, Sunset Heights, and Downtown areas. The proposed site would require concrete work of 2 feet x 16 feet or more for placement of the bikes and kiosk. The docked bikes cost \$6/hour for a 24 hour period, have a 24 hour monitoring system with peak times identified as 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. There was general discussion as to whether Tom Lea was a good choice or if closer to Scenic Drive would be a better placement. Mr. Telles was requesting a letter of support and would entertain a recommendation for placement within the RANA boundary but would not object to placement in an area close to Scenic Drive. Concern was expressed about adding another component to the RANA area that would attract visitors and increase parking in an already congested area. It was recommended that RANA should 1) determine what happens with the parking district, 2) determine whether or not Rim will be striped for a 45 minute parking, and 3) obtain the opinion of more neighbors as to whether they wanted the rentable bicycles located at the Tom Lea Park.

Action Taken: Motion was made by Renee O'Donnell to put the pilot electronic bike project on hold until parking in the neighborhood had been resolved. Motion was seconded by Bob Brannon. Following a call for discussion where different views were expressed, there was a call for a vote with three for and five opposed. The motion did not carry. A modified motion was made by Robert Ardivino to put the pilot electronic bike project on hold as progress with the parking district is pursued, if the parking district does not progress then the pilot bike project will be revisited in six months. Motion was seconded by Renee O'Donnell, all in favor, motion carries.

3. **Review and approval/amendment of Minutes.** The members were referred to the minutes and were asked if there were any changes or corrections. It was recommended that Item 21 be amended to modify to state that the TEXDOT plan would affect the neighborhood. Motion was made by Bob Brannon to approve the minutes. Flip Lyle seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carries.

4. **Treasurer's Report** –There was no Treasurer's Report this month.

4. **Subcommittees:**

- a. **July 4th Parade:** Bob Brannon gave a report on the status of the parade and stated that the following items were needed:
1. Budget for the parade to purchase flags and awards.
 2. Needed a convertible for the Grand Marshall, and it was recommended that Risher Gilbert would be the Grand Marshall this year. Robert Ardivino stated he would work to obtain the convertible.
 3. A face painter was still needed; it was suggested Lynn Westbrook could find a face painter.
 4. Boy Scouts, Fire Truck, and Antique Car have already been arranged; not sure if a band would be available, still pending.
 5. Coolers – Larry and Renee O'Donnell would bring a couple of coolers. Sijair Haribhai also volunteered coolers but would check to see if he was in town.
 6. Water for dogs, Robert Ardivino would bring water for dogs.
 7. Robert Ardivino also would function as Traffic Coordinator and bring cones, with the parade starting with Color Guard, Grand Marshall, Children, Bikes, and then Pedestrians.

Action Taken: Motion was made by Flip Lyle that \$300 be set aside for the purchase of items for the July 4th Parade. Motion was seconded by Robert Ardivino, all in favor, motion carries. Motion was made by Bob Brannon to approve Risher Gilbert as the Grand Marshall. Motion was seconded by Robert Ardivino, all in favor, motion carries.

- b. **Communications:** It was reported that the Pay Pal site has been collecting email addresses and working as it should. Emily Brockhoff also reported that she was working on sending out e-mails on a monthly basis to the membership.
- c. **City Review Committee:** There was no report to present. However, Emily would follow-up with the City to determine if they have the correct e-mail for notification of meetings with the change of Board Officers. The meeting is generally held the second Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in Building 3 in the basement.
- d. **City Parking Ordinance:** Emily reported that there was a meeting set up with Representative Peter Svarzbein on Wednesday, June 5th at 1:30 p.m. to lay out the parking ordinance amendments. The amendments have been prioritized as to importance and the ten point plan will be presented.
- e. **Trash Pickup:** There was no report. Flip Lyle stated that he brought the rope that Tom Casey had requested to assist with the trash pick-up on the slope.
- f. **Public Right of Way (ROW) Improvements:** Emily reported that there have been two meetings with the engineer Robert (Bobby) Gonzalez and one with Ted Marquez and other city representatives. It was reported that the City advised RANA that they could design and manage the bulb-out/median projects as long as all designs and work conformed to city code, ordinances, and permit requirements. Mr. Robert Gonzalez was identified by RANA as the engineer approached to prepare a conceptual cost estimate. Mr. Gonzalez would be the appropriate contact person for the project and requested a meeting with city representatives to walk the area of the proposed bulb outs and the median to determine feasibility and obtain the

necessary measurements and site information to prepare a cost estimate. Mr. Gonzalez would advise members once a date has been set. It was recommended that Jennifer Ardovino be asked to attend this meeting due to her expertise in landscaping.

6. **Other Business.** Emily introduced Ms. Martina Lorey who had asked to obtain an audience with RANA regarding the Tom Lea Upper Park Slope Stabilization Project. Ms. Lorey reported that on April 24th there was a community meeting proposing the slope stabilization and was disturbed by the manner in which it was presented as well as the aesthetics of the project. The presentation was 60% complete with construction documents before it was pitched to the public and there was no collaborative effort to include or obtain input from the neighborhoods. Her concerns expressed were that the plans included 1) encapsulating the toe of the Franklin Mountains in concrete with a 20 foot tall barrier; 2) parts of the park would obscure visibility, inviting unwanted behavior; 3) it was improperly designed, city not concerned with integration of the landscape as well as erosion or proper water drainage; 3) no consideration of parking concerns; 4) no concern for neighborhood nor proximity to high school; and 5) a civil engineer was engaged to do a landscaping job without input from a landscaping architect. The impact of this proposal was in essence destroying a great scenic resource, creating congestion, as well as creating safety issues that would affect the RANA neighborhood. The project is at the stage that it would require an audience with City Council and Ms. Lorey was requesting assistance and support from RANA to pursue this issue. The members agreed that this is a project that needs monitoring and a request was made from Emily for a Chairman and members to form a Slope Stabilization Subcommittee. Mr. Robert Ardovino volunteered to be the Chairman and Mr. Flip Lyle and Ms. Lorey, having just become a RANA member, would be a member of the subcommittee. It was recommended that Cherie Mols, Jennifer Ardovino and Emily Brockhoff would be advisor members of the committee. One of the first actions of the committee would be to contact the El Paso High and the El Paso Independent School District to obtain their opinion on this new park proposal directly across from the high school.

Action Taken: As Chairman, Emily Brockhoff appointed a new Slope Stabilization Subcommittee to be chaired by Robert Ardovino, with Flip Lyle and Martina Lorey as members. Ms. Cherie Mols, Jennifer Ardovino and Emily Brockhoff would be advisor members of the subcommittee.

7. **Adjourn.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 pm.