RNA meeting minutes January 22, 2018

A good crowd of steering committee members and Rosedale residents turned out at Café Express on N. Lamar. Also attending was city council member Leslie Pool who represents District 7 in Austin and resides in Rosedale.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. RNA president Jeff Archer welcomed everyone.

Chris Risher of Risher & Martin Fine Homes gave a presentation of a project they wish to pursue at 3904 Medical Parkway. It is currently owned by Bennie Lee & Dorothy Ann Engelke. Risher wishes to raze the existing house built in the 1950's (not occupied since 2002) and construct a new two story office building covering 4000 sq. ft. of the 15,000 sq. ft. lot. There will be 16 parking spaces and a retention pond. The company seeks re-zoning from SF (single family) to LO (Limited Office) or perhaps MU (multiple use). They are also asking for a four-foot variance so that the building can be widened toward the adjacent property. The first approval meeting with the city will occur on February 6.

Questions and discussion followed, with the audience split 50/50 on the "approval" or "lack of disapproval" sought from the RNA by Risher. Several mentioned that one of the three office units planned could be converted to a condo so that the neighborhood does not lose yet another family residence to commercial development. It was agreed to table the discussion / vote so that further dialogue can be conducted via email among the RNA steering committee and possibly the Rosedale listserv.

Discussion ensued about the upcoming Rudy's BBQ at the old EZ/Banzai site on Burnet Road. There is concern about smoke pollution from their cooking process and whether they might address the neighborhood's concerns before moving in. The incidents between Black's BBQ and the Bouldin Creek neighborhood residents was sighted where heavy smoke infiltrated homeowner's environments.

HVAC noise concerns from places like Austin Heart Hospital, Seton Shoal Creek Hospital and the Jefferson Building were addressed and the suggestion of approaching the building management by concerned citizens was made.

Jeff suggested that fewer RNA meetings be held in order to get better turn outs. Perhaps every other month or quarterly.

Council member Pool talked about the city's agenda concerning bonds, dedicated parkland to private owners (soccer team at Butler Park), the state hospital promotion by Sen. Kirk Watson, maintenance and regulation of park pools and obtaining voter approval for many upcoming such projects. She emphasized that many items could be delayed which could be a good thing with upcoming elections and the installment of a new city manager.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

Submitted for your approval.

Jay Carpenter