

REIA General Meeting Minutes – July 11, 2020

Held via Zoom

Board members present: Janet Knipe, Annette Guido, Patti Kroen, Jayne Robinson, Martin Rollins, Cindy Thompson, Ken Mergentime. Attendance: 28 members + 1 former member = 29 total.

President Janet called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM and welcomed attendees. She introduced new Board Members Annette (new Vice President) and Ken and thanked them for agreeing to serve.

David Jamieson moved to **approve the minutes from the June 13, 2020 general meeting** which had been available in emails sent to members earlier this month. Annette seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's World –Patti gave a brief summary of current REIA finances and the following **updated numbers as of the end of June (also end of our fiscal year)**: year-to-date balance in all accounts: \$25,343.71; year-to-date expenses: \$4,910.16 (51.6% of total budget); total income to date: \$4,219.88, which includes \$3,007.80 in dues and \$752.00 in donations. Alethia Ward moved to accept the report; Elaine Walsh seconded, motion carried.

Open Discussion: 4th of July Weekend - Janet stated that this part of the meeting was to be a **forum in which members would be invited to express their thoughts and feelings about the 4th of July weekend**. She stated that **this portion of the meeting was to be recorded** to better gather all comments in order to prepare a letter to be written from the organization to the Mayor, City Manager, and City Council members before their next meeting on Monday.

Fireworks

- on July 5, beach cleanest in years, nothing disgusting to pick up
- high tide between midnight on 4th and mid-morning on 5th - our Marine Reserve negatively affected by trash
- 68th Street – some confiscation by police observed
- booms worst/loudest ever experienced (many people)
- “sounded like a war zone”
- education program is not working; signs ignored, some stolen
- when called the non-emergency #, was told police were “overwhelmed with calls”
- culture in Lincoln City: no enforcement
- need to do more; seems there is no relief
- how many citations were actually issued?
- fireworks okay up until ~10PM ... 2AM not acceptable

- safety issues: fire a primary concern (commercial grade explosives being fired from wooden deck of VRD on upper 70th Street)
- unacceptable to have a display in a neighborhood
- debris cluttering streets
- if you want to blow your own hand off, okay, but not in a crowd
- police in evidence but seemed “frantic”
- some VRDers are fine, other “bad actors” have no respect for the neighborhood, are out of control, there is a sense of “lawlessness,” rudeness, arrogance, unconcern
- difference in this 4th vs. several years ago is huge

Next Steps/Moving Forward

- can REIA do anything?
- REIA should not be involved with illegal fireworks
- LCPD would rather confiscate than ticket since it is so difficult to pinpoint the culprit; would infrared camera equipment help?
- control/stop sales of all fireworks (legal/illegal)
- need to recognize that the education program is failing; people know the law but don't care
- scary for citizens if police department cannot enforce laws
- change/enforce noise ordinances
- change/enforce VRD policies; city has right to review/deny VRD licenses; can we petition city not to renew or at least to fine?
- how much of the increased problem was caused by the shut-down of public displays?
- is this year atypical?
- can city close parking areas (state park, nearby streets, beach access) for the holiday?
- can supply chain for fireworks be disrupted?
- those who are buying are not part of our community
- have family-friendly community events for legal fireworks
- speed up the process of ticketing/arresting/confiscating
- how to put responsibility/consequences on VRD owners/managers who have not been cooperative/receptive in the past
- put owners/managers on notice that if things do not change next year then the following year renting of VRDs for July 4th holiday week will not be allowed
- some second home owners also create problems
- could RE beach be closed at dusk on the 4th? Tickets issued to anyone found there after closing
- would closing the beach force people up into the forest behind the neighborhood?
- light up the beach with spotlights
- large signs in VRDs telling about fines for fireworks

-could authorities be stationed at state-owned access points to check for fireworks?

Janet thanked everyone for their thoughtful input and asked City Councilor Diana Hinton to respond as part of her report.

Lincoln City Government Update –

Response to Forum Questions:

- Councilor Hinton stated that as far as she knew, it would be the Governor's call to close the beach or state park
- wants to know and will find out how many citations were written on the 4th and how many pounds of fireworks were confiscated
- acknowledged that the incident at the Inn at Spanish Head took police officers assigned to RE beach away at a critical time
- stressed that identifying individuals who actually set off the fireworks is one of the most difficult tasks for PD
- suggested the possibility of drone oversight but questioned legality
- according to Ken Murphy, EmPrep Coordinator for LC, **the possibility of FIRE is the biggest problem**

Announcements:

- Lincoln County is on the Governor's watch list** - to date, Lincoln County has 362 Covid cases (Lincoln City has 12), 5 deaths, 5 current hospitalizations; we must bring the numbers down or face county-wide reinstatement of closings
- County Commissioners have asked Lincoln City to return the number of people allowed to gather from 25 to 10
- to be considered at the Council Meeting July 27: renaming of Villages at Cascade Head & Knoll; final stages of Urban Renewal Project; fireworks.
- Food Pantry still is in need of donations; information at Lincoln County website under "Resources"

Janet expressed thanks to Councilor Hinton for her time and dedication to our neighborhood and our city.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Summer Social – Due to Covid19 rules and regulations regarding large gatherings, our August Summer Social has been cancelled. We will keep everyone posted on future events.

Member Survey Update – Janet reported that David Jamieson is in the process of compiling data from the on-line survey sent to all members to gather opinions

and input about REIA activities, emails, projects and other business. The Board plans to devote time at the August meeting when we have all the data and can actually determine future organizational goals. The survey will be available through July 18. Thanks to David for his hard work on this project!

Beach Clean-Up – Janet informed us that 49 volunteers collected 22 bags of debris in the new “Pandemic Version” of the Clean-Up. She will have more thoughts in coming months on how the Clean-Up might look going forward.

Membership Renewal - Janet thanked those who have already renewed their memberships for next year and encouraged those who have not to do so as soon as possible.

Neighborhood Watch – Next meeting is Monday, July 20, 3PM. Contact David Jamieson for more information.

Upcoming Meetings – There will not be a General Membership Meeting in August. **Next meeting is Saturday, September 12, 11AM via Zoom.** Information to follow.

Meeting adjourned at 12:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

/Jayne Robinson, Secretary