

Reisterstown Improvement Association, Inc. (RIA) Morning Meeting

October 11, 2016 – 10:00am – 11:00am

Attendance: Kathy Gambrell, Dan Carey, Mary Molinaro, Carin Smith, Irwin Kramer, Pat Brooks, Justin Switzer, Marla Bosley, Susan Rose, Kathleen Jones, Stacey Bonds, Ernie Schmidhauser, Jimmy Roberts, Alonza Williams, Calvin Reter, Jackson Moore, Dave Powers, Betty Ann Rigney, Kim Berk, Beverly Goldstein, Adrienne Jones, Tony Baysmore, Brad Reter

1. Kathy welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked the business owners for taking the time away from their business to join us, and shared a few documents so that everyone who is in attendance could familiarize themselves with what RIA has been doing and what we hope to do in the future:

- a. Meeting agenda sharing the items discussed at the September monthly meeting.** Kathy pointed out that all the officers, board members and committee chairpeople's phone numbers are on page 3. If you would like to server on a committee or have a question, you may call them directly.
- b. REISTERSTOWN MAIN STREET ACTIVITIES 2016** – Kathy listed all the activities expected for the 4th quarter of 2016. Susan Rose commented that The Reisterstown Community Cemetery Luminary Event is missing from the activities. She will contact them and get the date and time for us. Check the calendar at <http://reisterstown.com> to see if it will be Saturday, Nov. 12th or Monday on Veteran's Day.
- c. Rack Card which is distributed at our booths to inform people of our accomplishments.**

2. Comments and introductions from RIA Committee Chairpeople

Organization – Mary Molinaro – explained that the committee works closely with the other committees so there is a bit of overlapping. The committee includes the treasurer and membership chair and develops budgets with the other committees watching the income and expenses throughout the year. Also, we are responsible for setting up booths to market RIA and promote businesses on Main Street. We will have setup a booth 36 times in 2016. Our Communications Director, Mike Donnelly, works with each committee to write articles for the print media & promote on Social Media including Facebook, You Tube, and our website.

Promotion – Carin Smith – this committee is responsible for 3 major events throughout the year (Eggstravaganza, Spooktacular, and Small Business Saturday/Holidays on Main Street. These events are now held at 227 Main Street in the center of the historic district. Carin handed out flyers for the Spooktacular event which will be held Saturday, October 29th starting at 10am with registration for the Costume contest that has categories for children, adults, and pets. She is looking for judges if anyone has the time to volunteer. This is the most highly attended event and makes Main Street very busy. There will be trick or treating from noon to 1pm at any participating businesses and Bess Lorah at The Zen Life Wellness Community will be setting up a haunted house atmosphere at their location 143 Main Street.

Plans are also underway for Small Business Saturday and Holidays on Main Street which will be combined on the same day Saturday, November 26th. She welcomes all volunteers to help with the planning and execution.

Clean, Safe and Green – Dan Carey – focuses on these three ideas at the same time. On the 1st Saturday of each month, volunteers meet at 9am in the parking lot in front of Reter's and cleans from Chartley Drive to Hanover Pike, on both sides of the street. In the early times we collected up to 15 trash bags and now there are only 4-5 bags. It is the same small group of faithful volunteers and we always welcome extra hands. Gloves, vests and trash bags are provided. Dan and Glenn also meet regularly with the police to stay on top of issues and concerns with the area. The committee also works with other Committees, especially promotion events to be sure they are safe

Economic Development – No Replacement Yet – If anyone has a background\interest, we are looking for a chairperson. This committee would work with the county planning department economic development person as well as the Chamber of Commerce to encourage Businesses to come to our town.

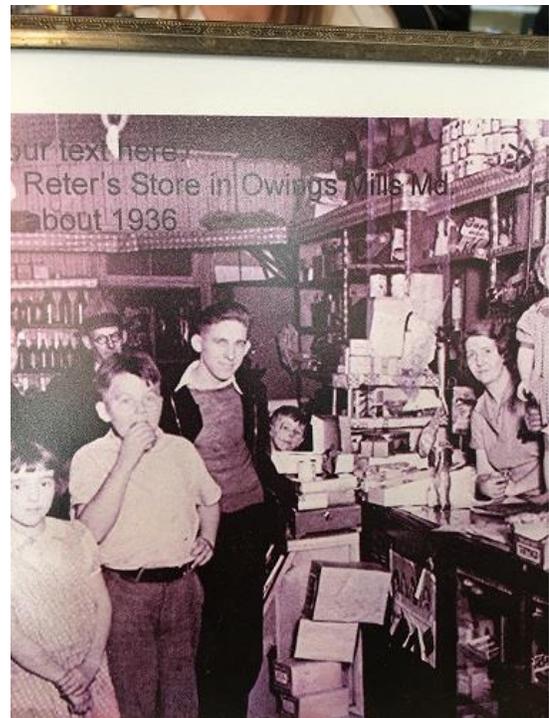
Design – Irwin Kramer – said he is seeking help from those interested in the look of Main Street. More work needs to be done with improvements with a goal to preserve the historic character. Also, in 2017 the committee

will host a contest/competition to help brand our town for the next style banner. He will be reaching out to colleges, artists, and anyone can submit a design. Details will be provided soon.

3. **Kathy then asked everyone else in attendance to introduce themselves.** She thanked Brad for hosting us for our meeting. She then took a poll of everyone for how often we will meet in the future and which day of the week is best. There were 5 opinions to hold them quarterly and 5 opinions as well for Tuesday morning. There was one vote for bi-monthly. A motion was made by Brad that we in fact “hold quarterly morning meetings on Tuesday morning at 10am at Reters Crab House” Susan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
4. **Marla said that she attended the Baltimore Business Journal meeting regarding the “Future of Owings Mills.”** The format was a panel discussion with Vicki Almond (Baltimore County Councilwoman), Kevin Manning (President of Stevenson University), Brian Gibbons (developer of Foundry Row), and David S. Brown (developer of Metro Centre). There were approximately 300 people in the auditorium. Most comments were negative about Kimco at the Mall and talk of a Super Walmart idea. It is still up in the air. She thought this might be a good idea to discuss “Future of Main Street Reisterstown” She also told us that Greenberg Gibbons purchased the St. Thomas Center and it will be redone to complement the style of Foundry Row. Mary mentioned they apparently purchased the apartments across the street and putting \$9M+ towards renovating them so seem to be working on improving a large section of OM. Marla asked if anyone knew about the plans for the Reisterstown Shopping Center now that Greenburg Gibbons purchased it. Mary said that Jonathan Schwartz last night reported at the ROG meeting that Chick Fil-A is getting permits from the county so definitely still planning to take a pad at the front and everyone agreed we will be happy when they move up from their Owings Mills projects to work on Reisterstown Shopping Center.
5. **Kathy moved the topic to guest speakers at our morning meetings and introduced ideas and others in the room added to the list such as:**
 - Signage and Code Enforcement
 - State Delegates
 - County Council Representatives
 - Zoning
 - Small Business Development Speaker
 - Fire Department
 - Police Department
 - State Highway Association
 - Property Developers
6. **Dan asked Brad about the rumor of Volunteer Fire Companies merging – are Reisterstown Volunteer Fire Company and Glyndon Volunteer Fire Company merging?** Brad said there is discussion but he doesn’t believe it is something in the near future. Both fire companies have good membership and funds unlike some of the other companies. Someone mentioned they heard that the Boring & Arcadia fire companies are in discussion about merging. Brad said that RVFD just ordered a new medic unit at a cost of \$300,000. They have the oldest one in the county. Their next large purchase will be a rescue squad.
7. **Pat asked Brad if he knew why there are surveyors on Main Street in front of his shopping center?** He said Chartley & Landmark Shopping Centers are owned by Continental Realty and are under contract to be sold to a NY firm. Brad said Continental Realty has been a good landlord and support our community. He hopes the new owners will do the same This sale should be finalized by year’s end

8. **Tony said that the county executive, Kevin Kamenetz, asked him to talk about the Air Conditioning projects for the county.** Four schools are in our area (Franklin High School, Franklin Middle School, Franklin Elementary School, and Franklin High School) and they should have central air conditioning when school starts September, 2017 or 2018 at the latest. He had handouts to share on the topic. Our county has the 2nd oldest inventory of school buildings just behind Baltimore City. We have 830,000 people in the county and still growing so overcrowding is another big problem that needs to be addressed. There were 90 without AC when he was elected and he has reduced it to 34. These changes will also include needed repairs to wifi for technology and heating. He has a \$1.3B plan so when you go to vote keep that in mind for any education bonds. Kevin recently requested a waiver from the governor and it was granted so he can now hire contractors and get quotes so he can get it down to 11 in 2017-2018 with the goal of finishing the rest the next year. Tony thanked RIA for the work of these past 6 years and while everyone is looking at Owings Mills and their changes we should continue our advocacy work. The county has recently built 11 new schools and there was a \$50M renovation at Pikesville High School.
9. **Adrienne said they are currently looking at budget development for next year.** She is the Speaker Pro Tem and chairs the Capital Committee and gave assistance this year to the Reisterstown Community Cemetery. She asked that we keep her informed about projects and she may be able to help us with financing them. Kathy said that Glenn, who couldn't attend today, wanted to be sure and thank her for the streetscape work currently being done to repair the brick work coming south now from Hanover Road. It is looking great.
10. **Calvin said he wanted to thank the new people for attending.** He also reminded everyone that a lot had been done on Main Street these last few years including trash cans, planters, benches, new lights, banners, etc. Kathy told everyone that this year all the Benches, including those purchased years ago before we formed were sanded and stained/painted.

Before he left, Kathy presented him with a plaque thanking him for all his work over the last 75 years to make Reisterstown a great place to live. He got a standing ovation. Brad shared a picture that showed him first helping his dad with a project back in 1941.



11. Kathy made a few closing remarks and told everyone we will plan for our next meeting.

- a.** She asked everyone to please let us know when they have events so we can promote them.
- b.** She encouraged everyone to be sure and use Reisterstown.com website as a source for info and register so they can add the events themselves.
- c.** Chartley Homeowners Association is having their Annual Crab Feast Saturday night (15th) at the American Legion. Crabs will come from Reters Crab House and Dave has tickets if anyone is interested today.
- d.** Carin reminded everyone that she is looking for judges at the Spooktacular event and will welcome donations for prizes, please see her.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am.