

Reisterstown Improvement Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 856
Reisterstown, MD 21136
Founded 1758

Meeting Agenda/Minutes – February 23, 2016 – 7 P.M.

www.reisterstownimprovementassociation.com

2016 Officers:

President – Glenn Barnes
Vice President – Kathy Gambrell
Secretary – Mary Molinaro
Treasurer – Kim Drapkin

2016 Board of Directors:

Danny Carey	Carin Smith
Mary Molinaro	Linda Percy
Maggie Herman	Irwin Kramer
Mark Stewart	Charles Brittain
Herb Weiss	Pat Brooks

**“Reisterstown’s Main Street is a Destination.
Not Just a Drive Through Road.”**

Meeting started with the Franklin District 3 - Community Action Team (Officer Stewart, Officer Arthur, Officer Yowell, Officer Dierman) a specialized team for our area. They talked about the work they do and where they go is at the discretion of Captain Folderauer. They discussed the importance of everyone locking their cars and not leaving valuables inside as there have been numerous thefts from autos in the area. Many of the cars that have been burglarized were from cars left unlocked. Pat talked about finding ids for neighbors strewn along the street that they returned. The officers said that they have helped with many festivals in the area including Music on Main Street concerts, The Reisterstown Festival, and Hunt Cup just to name a few. They were asked about the incident a day ago with teens walking down the street appearing to carry guns. Many police officers did respond and this was the incident all over Facebook with comments about a large police presence in the neighborhood. They each have close to or a little over 20 years on the job and said they are always aware that the goal of their job is to “catch the bad guys.” They look for trends and work to resolve problems. Sometimes they work in plain clothes, unmarked cars, on bikes, whatever it takes to solve the trouble. They were asked about why they have remained on the street and answered saying that is why they became policemen and that none of them are interested in sitting behind a desk doing paperwork. They were thanked for all that they do to serve our community.

1. Call to order – introductions of those attending.

Attendees – Glenn Barnes, Kim Drapkin, Eric Rutledge, Bess Hauf, Irwin Kramer, Ernie Schmidhauser, Herb Weiss, Kathy Gambrell, Carin Smith, Mary Molinaro, Vicki

Almond, Mike Chiosi, Pat Brooks, Jonathan Schwartz, John Barnard, Mike Ruby, Janel Johnson, Tony Baysmore. After being introduced Ernie told everyone that yesterday the shed we plan to use for storage was moved from behind the closed Mexican Café up to the area behind the Cow. There is some repair work to the floor that buckled during the move. The tear down and rebuild will happen as soon as possible so the sides and roof are moved over to the platform that was built a couple of months ago.

2. **Review of minutes from last meeting** Jonathan made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Kim seconded the motion and unanimously approved
3. **Treasurers report – Kim Drapkin** the Balance Sheet as of February 22, 2016 and the Profit & Loss Report for February 1-22, 2016 were distributed. Kim explained the values on each report.
4. **Membership Report – Kathy Gambrell – Renewals & New Members \$25 yr. To remain on the website roster our annual \$25 dues must be paid. If you check our site and your name is missing your membership has probably expired. We would like you to renew your membership and have your name appear on our roster again.** Kathy named the information over the last three months. Renewals included Marilyn Gordon, Mark Stewart, Jonathan Schwartz, Delegate Adrienne Jones, Kathy Gambrell, Mary Molinaro, Karen Saab, & Pat & Claude Brooks, Barbara Karpel, Karen Fitchett, Maryland China Co., Delegate Ben Brooks, Ron London & Steven Greenspan, Mike Ruby with Country Crier, Kathy Bell with Hair Plus, St John Properties, Dr. Peter J. Ferra, Tina Johansson from Tina's Antiques & Jewelry, Charlie Brittain from Charlie Brittain's Main Street Citgo, Marla Bosley from Future Care Cherrywood, and 1st Maryland Civil War Reenactment Group. New Members are Jimmy Roberts, Barbara & Mike Chiosi, George Marsalek.
5. **Lamppost and Main Street Banners – Mary Molinaro – Renewals - \$50 for a 12 month rental after the 1st year. Renewal letters are sent to the businesses. Details under Old Business below. New banners cost \$150. We have twelve more being made and hopefully installed this week.** Mary said that the last order of 12 banners was created a few weeks ago; but, the weather has delayed the installation. We hope to have them up soon as well as repair a few on the street. These will probably be the last with this design, we will have the renewals for the 2nd year and new designs thereafter.

President's Report

Our CRAG Grant application was approved by the Baltimore County Department of Planning. I returned the signed documents to Troy Leftwich this morning in Towson. I would like to thank Andrea Van Arsdale, Director, and Troy Leftwich, Community Planner, for assistance in getting our grant application approved. The funds will be used to help pay for the bands appearing this summer at our "Music on Main Street" summer concerts in front of Franklin Middle School in Friday

nights from 7PM to 10PM. We were awarded the full amount of the grant request which was \$10,000.00.

Baltimore County Code Enforcement role? Main Street and in the residential communities. Call 410-887-3351 for information. Just an FYI for everyone if they are having any issues they need resolved.

- 6. Signs on Main Street – Several people have commented to me recently they didn't like some of the signs on Main Street. Can we work with the Planning Department to come up with some sign design guidelines? The new owners probably would like to know there are guidelines. Most people don't know what kind of sign to put up when opening a new business and how big it should be.** Bess, who is a new business owner, asked about whether we approached new businesses to give them any guidelines for the historic area regarding appropriate signage (style or size). She had a terrible time figuring out what to do when she opened her business. Irwin mentioned that a lot of time was spent in the past discussing this topic and we were not able to have anything filed with the Planning Department. Both Jonathan and Vicki said that the county has not made signage a high priority for the code enforcement department. It was mentioned that often a business comes to town, goes to a sign company, tells them what they want, it is purchased and put up knowing that the people in code enforcement are not really going to approach them to say that they purchased a sign too big or inappropriately designed. Irwin said that he thought we could put some ideas on the new website which his Design committee worked on a couple years ago. It was also discussed that we need a chairperson for a "welcome committee" to reach out to new people on Main Street. Let them know we are here and resource to help them when they have questions.

Raffle tickets were printed to benefit the Bloomin' ArtFest. Prize is 2 terrace box tickets plus a parking pass (for 4 games) to park on the lot between Oriole Park and M&T Bank Stadium where the Ravens play. Sir Speedy printed the tickets. Glenn donated the 4 sets of tickets being raffled and paid to have the raffle tickets printed. He asked people to take some with them to sell.

Coffee with Kevin at Hannah More Senior Center with Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz will be on Thursday, March 31st from 9:30am – 11:30am. We decided at the last meeting to have our monthly meeting in the daytime instead of having a night meeting on Tuesday March 29th at 10am. Since these dates are so close do we want to keep our regular time at night and start our day meeting in April? Tony Baysmore doesn't want people to get them confused. We have been including the flier for this event in the weekly emails.

Main Street Committee Reports

We have 5 committees

If you would like to be on one of our committees please let us know. Each committee chair will give a report tonight.

Organization Committee – **Mary Molinaro** – there wasn't a February meeting yet to have new information since the last monthly meeting. At the next Board meeting, a 2015 Annual Report will be presented and the 2016 board members were all given Conflict of Interest documents to sign and return.

Economic Restructuring Committee – **New Chairperson TBD** Glenn asked if anyone is interested in chairing this committee to please contact him so we can fill the position.

Design Committee - + **Website Designer** – **Irwin Kramer** Irwin has been hard at work on the new website. It is still in the design phase and not ready to publish yet. However, you can take a look if you go to www.regardinglaw.com – once we get more information, it will be moved to the Reisterstown domain name. Irwin asked permission to get reisterstownimprovement.com as well for the organization because it is shorter. He will link the other domain name to also go to this website if typed. The site is a content management site and it is user-friendly so we can easily add information as well. He anticipates that Kathy with membership and Carin with promotions will often update information. It has a nice look, very expanded membership directory broken down by types of members, a “great look” – the member will be able to log in and update the information – there will be separate pages for events, it is quite unlimited, we will setup pay online capability and the newsletter can go to a page rather than be pushed as an email as it is currently managed. It will be the hub for all our activities. He does need help to get the initial information loaded. Carin and Mary have both replied to his email regarding training times. He thanked Claude for sharing nice high resolution pictures for the site. It will be a nice site to promote businesses. He also reported that the Facebook “profile page” originally created was successfully converted to a “fan page” allowing people to Like and us to better track what is happening on the page.

Clean, Safe and Green Committee – **Dan Carey** – **Clean Main Street Day** – **Next one will be Saturday, March 5, 2016. Meet at Reter's Crab House & Grille Parking lot at 9 AM.** Tonight is Dan's birthday so he sent a report.

Promotion Committee – **Carin Smith** – Our first event of 2016 will be the Spring Eggstravaganza. It will be held Saturday, March 26th starting at 10am with an Easter Egg Hunt at RUMC and some children's activities. The Easter Bunny will lead a parade along Main Street to the tent that will setup on Brad Knatz's parking lot with children's activities. We will promote businesses and any specials they are having as well as specials at restaurants. We are encouraging sidewalk sales. The next committee meeting

is expected to happen Wednesday, March 2nd @ 3:30pm. She will announce when it is confirmed and where it will be located. She asked any of the businesses in the room to let her know if they would like to host a meeting.

Officers and Board Member comments? No board members had comments to make. Glenn mentioned a rumor going around town about the Ski Shoppe closing on Facebook and Pat said the story had been updated. The owner wants to retire at the end of the season and is trying to sell the store. There are several potential buyers for the shop.

7. **Music on Main Street Committee – Dan Carey and Glenn – Glenn has 14 bands planned for 2016. The committee discussed the bands and dates at our last committee meeting. We have added a Memorial Day Weekend Friday that would make 13 dates. We will offer a Memorial Day concert on Friday – May 27 and a 4th of July patriotic show. We will release the schedule of bands in the near future. There will also be a 14th band at Bloomin’ ArtFest.**
8. **Reisterstown Community Cemetery Committee (1764 by John Reister) – Co-Chairs Linda Percy and Chris Larkins – Kim said there isn’t any news at the moment. She said they will have an activity over July 4th and she would check if they will give tours when we have Bloomin’ ArtFest as she wasn’t sure. She said that 1st Maryland will be there.**
9. **“Bloomin’ Art Fest” Committee – Mark Stewart – May 7, 2016 from 10AM to 5PM.** Mark was not at the meeting. Mary said that plans are well underway and the next planning meeting will be March 8th at 5:30. We are getting craft vendors and non-profit vendors. We will be sending information to non-profits, politicians and schools to display art. Pat reminded everyone that they can go to the website and click to register and pay online this year. Glenn said the music is settled with Reisterstown Jazz Ensemble and Maryland Sings. He is still trying to finalize the third performers for the day.
10. **Capt. David Folderauer, Commander of the Franklin Precinct, will have Representatives from his Community Action Team attend tonight’s meeting.** See the paragraph at the beginning of the document.
11. **Facebook comments about Reisterstown – Missing or Found Pets and Restaurant reviews are popular lately.**

Glenn asked Janel to give a report for Delegate Adrienne Jones. She said that Del. Jones is busy in Annapolis and will be back around April 15th ready to attend meetings again. Her local office is still open for constituent services and everyone was encouraged to call if they have any questions.

Vicki Almond reported that she is happy to work with the communities and also encouraged everyone to call if they had questions. She was thanked for her efforts during

the January blizzard following up with those who contacted her office during the trying times.

12. Old Business:

- a. The PUD for 25 Main Street Meeting is Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 10Am in Towson at 105 W. Chesapeake Ave. – Room 205. The owners', Chesapeake Contracting Group, attorney called Glenn on Monday to discuss a letter opposed to the project. Glenn was not aware of the letter, involved in the preparation of the 2 page letter and not asked for comments. His name was mentioned in the bottom paragraph of the letter as being able to help and being in charge of the Reisterstown Meetings. His phone number was also included.** – the letters weren't signed but the suspicion is that a neighbor possibly back on Hammond Lane sent the letter. The attorney offered to come and discuss the PUD but Glenn said that we had attended meetings in the past and he didn't feel that was really necessary.
- b. Mary read an email from Dave Kirby regarding 218 Main Street explaining that after finally getting permission to complete the work on the water line, they were not able to get the inspection approved because 4" lines were used instead of 6" lines. Dave made several phone calls to all the parties involved and believes the problem will be resolved shortly. Also, the owner told him the trash in the enclosed yard is being moved to his new location in Finksburg.**
- c. Kathy wanted to revisit the Certificates of Appreciation which we gave for volunteer work in 2015. She made a motion that we purchase frames for the 13 of them that are for businesses and restaurants on Main Street with the hopes they will hang and display them. She expects the cost to be around \$45. Carin seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.**

13. New Business

Glenn asked Mary to share the information she found out about the Reisterstown Shopping Center. She was trying to get contact information to send the Sponsor Invoice for 2016 and discovered that Greenberg Gibbons purchased the shopping center. Vicki acknowledged it was true and she has been encouraging Brian to come north on Reisterstown Road and help with that property. We all agreed it is great news and will be watching with great interest for any plans.

Volunteering Your Time

Volunteers form the backbone of our communities. They set the tone for our culture. Volunteering brings help and guidance to recipients and great satisfaction to the givers. It builds friendships, creates confidence and promotes natural leadership.

Thank you for attending tonight's meeting.

We will continue working with Elaina Clarke – The Community Times, Michael Ruby with The Country Crier, Sarah Meehan with the Baltimore Business Journal, the Baltimore County Planning Department, Department of Economic Development, the County Executive's Office and the Main Street Maryland Program.

Phone Numbers for 2016 Officers and Board Members

Glenn Barnes – President / 410-833-5400 or 443-695-2308

Kathy Gambrill – Vice President / 410-979-8885 or 410-833-6551

Kim Drapkin – Treasurer / 443-289-4447

Mary Molinaro – Secretary – Board/ 410-908-0724 or 410-526-7190

Linda Percy – Board / 410-833-2062 or 410-244-6634

Dan Carey – Board / 410-833-3820

Maggie Herman – Board / 410-833-5019 or 410-453-0490

Mark Stewart – Board / 410-241-1057

Irwin Kramer – Board / 410-581-0070

Carin Smith – Board / 410-746-2354

Charles Brittain – Board / 410-526-4443

Herb Weiss – Board / 410-526-5300

Pat Brooks – Board / 410-833-8215

Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 29th at 7PM as usual at Long & Foster

Tuesday, April 26th at 7PM at the Long & Foster office 321 Main St.

Agenda prepared by Glenn Barnes, President (Office: 410-833-5400 or cell:443-695-2308)

Minutes prepared by Mary Molinaro, Secretary (cell 410-908-0724)