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Subject: BANA March 20, 2017 Minutes

Date: April 10, 2017 at 11:39 PM

To: Christopher Marney ccmарney@gmail.com, Stephan Andersson stephan.e.andersson@gmail.com, Eileen LaCourse booksonstage@aol.com, Crystal Santos crystal.root@gmail.com, Chris White thechriswhitestudio@gmail.com, joan elliott elliottisland@gmail.com

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**Boulevard Appreciation Neighborhood Association (BANA)
Board Meeting: March 20, 2017
Renaissance HALL Meeting Center, 820 Eastern Avenue, Schenectady**

Present: Chris Marney, Stephan Andersson, Eileen LaCourse Crystal Santos, Joan Elliott

Absent: Chris White (excused)

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

MINUTES: Approval of the January 23, 2017 minutes was tabled.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Chris Marney reported that he and Stephan Andersson attended the community night at the Rivers Casino to represent BANA and found that it was a "soft opening" for the casino.

C. Marney reported on behalf of Treasurer Chris White (absent because of a traffic issue caused by an accident) that BANA has \$330 in its checking account.

SCHENECTADY UNITED NEIGHBORHOODS (SUN) MEETING:

Crystal Santos, BANA representative to SUN, the umbrella organization for all the neighborhood associations, reported that she found useful information and contacts at the SUN meeting at city hall. During the meeting, a representative of the Capital Region Land Bank described its mission and goals. A resource guide was distributed by SUN. She also said SUN wanted to develop a list of "zombie properties" so that SUN could report them to the City. Recently passed New York State legislation requires banks that have foreclosed on property to maintain that property in order to prevent neighborhood blight.

The Mont Pleasant Neighborhood Association asked for other neighborhood associations to support it in opposition to the reopening of a bodega on Crane Street. (BANA decided not to take action because of insufficient knowledge of the issues involved.)

Anne Marie Serre volunteered to be an alternate to attend SUN meetings if C. Santos is unavailable.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE:

Plans are being made to sell seedlings as a BANA fundraiser. There has been no response from the high school about the availability of students who are doing community projects who might help with boulevard island maintenance. Linda Murray, chair of the beautification committee, will make a report at the next meeting; she was unable to be present at the March meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

C. Marney is trying to get a meeting with Councilman Ed Kosiur to follow up on traffic safety issues.

A May social event continues to be explored. C. Marney and C. White are planning a wine tasting at their home as a fund raiser for BANA related to the cost of applying for 501-C status.

BANA will seek business memberships. (There are a potential of 30 businesses)

A membership drive will be a door to door effort instead of a mailing.

NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLAINT

C. Marney was contacted about a house in the 1100 block of Waverly Place that has garbage on its porch and behind the house in the alley. The neighbor had contacted City enforcement officials to no avail and was asking for BANA help. The property with the problem is a rental property with an absentee landowner. Joan Elliott said she would check the property conditions.

NEXT MEETING: May 15, 2017 at the Calvary Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Rugby Road, Schenectady