**Ramsey Hill Association**

**Annual Meeting**

**The Commodore**

**79 Western Avenue North, St. Paul, MN**

**October 23, 2019**

**Minutes**

**Welcome and Call to Order**

With a quorum present President Aaron Gjerde called the meeting to order at 6:38 P.M. Copies of the agenda, minutes from the Ramsey Hill Association’s annual meeting of October 3, 2018, the treasurer’s report, committee reports, and the slate of candidates recommended by the nominating committee were available at the entrance to the meeting room. Before proceeding with the agenda, President Gjerde made three announcements. The League of Women Voters will host a debate regarding the city referendum on trash collection on October 29 at 550 Vandalia. Collaboration is underway between the Cass Gilbert Society and the Clarence Johnston Society, organizations honoring two architects whose works are hallmarks of the Ramsey Hill neighborhood. Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) will re-broadcast its video, “St. Paul’s Historic Hill,” on October 28, 29, 31, and November 1.

**Minutes**

President Gjerde asked for and received a motion to approve the minutes from the annual meeting of October 3, 2018. The motion received a second and approval.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Before addressing the treasurer’s report, President Gjerde thanked Jason Patalonis, chair of the House tour committee, for a successful tour 2019 that raised net revenue of about $32,000.00 for the association’s operations for the next two years. The president then asked the following individuals to stand: home owners from the recent tour, owners from previous house tours, and volunteers from the recent tour. Vice President Cathy Maes presented a gift of appreciation to Jason.

Treasurer Julia Burgess briefly reviewed the financial statement and proposed budgets for 2020 and 2021, noting that revenue from the house tour and other sources placed the association in solid position to support more generously its activities. In this regard, the treasurer asked members present to submit survey forms.

President Gjerde echoed these remarks and then asked for and received a motion to approve the treasurer’s report. The motion received a second and approval.

**Committee Reports**

President Gjerde, noting the donations of community partnerships committee to local organizations this year, stated that the association’s financial situation will allow for more support in the next two years. Committee chair Amber McLaughlin asked for volunteers to prepare for and help staff the Halloween Party at the Hallie Q. Brown Center on October 27.

Regarding the parks and gardens committee, the president expressed thanks to its chair Norma Herther for continuing the association’s tradition of planting gardens and installing holiday lights and to volunteers who helped with planting.

President Gjerde recognized the efforts of John MacBain, membership chair, who cleaned up membership data and increased the number of individuals who are members of the association from 164 to 410.

President Gjerde introduced Dan Reed, social events chair, who noted that DVDs of “St. Paul’s Historic Hill” were available in the back of the room and spoke of a related project over the next one to three years to place the history of individual houses in an on-line podcast. After announcing December 8 as the date of the holiday open house and calling for two more home-owners to volunteer their houses for the event, Dan thanked those who helped organize other social events while efforts continued to produce and release

The president, noting that the Ramsey Hill Association has no formal role in advising city government on historic preservation and land use, briefly reviewed the work of Mason Riddle, chair of historic preservation, Peter Carlsen, chair of land use, and Judy Tande, RHA’s representative on the Summit-University Planning Council, for their contributions during the past year.

**Elections for Board Vacancies**

President Gjerde presented the slate of nominees for vacancies on the RHA Board of Directors for the members consideration. The nominees for terms beginning in January 2020 were:

President: Cathy Maes

Secretary: Charles Shaw

Community Partnerships: Amber McLaughlin

House Tour: Heidi and Mike Smith

Summit-University Planning Council Representative: Judy Tande

The term of each position is two years except for SUPC representative, which is a one-year term.

The slate of candidates received approval without dissent.

**Recognitions**

President Gjerde announced this year’s recipients of RHA awards.

For outstanding service to the Ramsey Hill Association, the recipient of the Nathan Hale Award is Marcy Wallace for diligence in many years of service to the organization.

For outstanding service to the Ramsey Hill community, the recipient of the Good Neighbor Award is Mary Wagers for helping to restore the house at 412 Holly, which had faced condemnation and demolition by the city.

The president then asked Mitch Rubinstein, the outgoing secretary, to come forward to receive a gift of appreciation. Vice President Maes then asked outgoing President Gjerde to come forward to receive a gift of appreciation.

**Guest Speaker: Christopher Keith, Local Research Historian on Historic Buildings**

President Gjerde introduced Christopher Keith, who received an enthusiastic reception as guest speaker at the Ramsey Hill Association annual meeting in 2018. The speaker’s presentation focused on pictures of historic structures in St. Paul that have disappeared.

**Adjournment**

In the absence of dissent, President Gjerde called for adjournment of meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charley Shaw, secretary