

# River Park South Community Association Meeting | MINUTES

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Meeting date | time September 19, 2017 | 6:30pm | Meeting location Louis Riel Library Meeting Room

Meeting called by Josée-Anne Le Dorze

Type of meeting Initial meeting

Meeting attended by: Lise Thiessen, Barb Churchill, Glenn Churchill, Janelle Berard, Cindy Blair

## AGENDA TOPICS

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Agenda topic Welcome | Presenter Josée-Anne Le Dorze

- Shout out to the 15 others who have expressed interest in being involved but could not be at the meeting
- Potential benefits of a community association: giving residents a voice, creating community spirit and a feeling of shared community values. Promoting an inclusive and welcoming neighborhood.

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Agenda topic Presentation on Last Year's Work | Presenter Glenn Churchill

- Last year, a community meeting was scheduled with similar goal to create a community association for the River Park South Area which was attended by the Royal Wood Resident's Association's president as well as Brian Mayes (city councilor)
- The president of the Royal Wood association discussed the ups and downs of their association. They had a really hard time getting residents in the area to buy a membership at the low price of \$5, despite offering discounts to nearby businesses. Their association focused on community beautification, family events and had a newsletter
- Mr. Mayes discussed the role of a community association and the relationship these have with the city councilor (they are the eyes and ears for the councilor, issues brought up by a community association are given more weight than issues brought up only by individuals)

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Agenda topic Round Table Discussion |

- River Park South has a community center, Dakota Community Center, that could potentially be an ally in the sense that they could "house" the community association – perhaps storing funds on our behalf without having to take the steps of incorporating (very complex process)
- Many of the other communities that have stand-alone associations (for example, Sage Creek) do not have a community center thus the community associations play a larger role. Our community is fairly well established (playgrounds, greenspaces, etc.) and we have a community center so we do not necessarily have the same needs as other communities
- What are the needs of our neighborhood? More community events, increasing the spirit of volunteerism in the community, create opportunities to "get to know your neighbors"
- Website for community association is an initial project that would be our main mechanism of communication with community members beyond the Facebook group
  - community members could sign up for email newsletter and also sign up to be on a volunteer list for upcoming events
  - Website could be advertised on mailboxes, school community boards, daycares, Sobey's

- Updated regularly with events, community resources, home business list and other initiatives
- Getting the website up and running as soon as possible
- In order to get some exposure for the community association and get our name out there, an inexpensive yet fun first event would be a Winter Holiday decoration contest through December
  - Participants could be listed on the website
  - Prize for the best house & best street
  - Mechanism for online voting on the website so everyone can participate
  - A committee to evaluate entries and pick winners
- Discussed possible roles on the committee: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Event Lead Coordinator and Event Coordinator, Website Chair, Liaison with Dakota, Volunteer Coordinator
  - No rush to fill these roles immediately, something that can be done over time as we get more exposure in the community and more people become aware of the initiative. Also many people were interested but could not attend first meeting.
  - Lise Thiessen expressed interest in one of the Event coordinator positions.
  - Others possibly interested in specific roles but no firm commitments yet
  - Group will continue on in an informal way until the next meeting
- Discussed website colors, logo ideas (green, tree, inspired by the RPS logo, sunset/sunrise)
- Agreed on name for the Association: River Park South Community Association
- Agreed on boundaries (South of Nova Vista between St. Anne's and St. Mary's)

<b>Action items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Distribute meeting minutes to attendees and others	Josée-Anne Le Dorze	September 22, 2017
Schedule Second Meeting	Josée-Anne Le Dorze	September 27, 2017
Website – find someone with the necessary skills willing to help	Josée-Anne Le Dorze	Will report at next meeting
Discuss feasibility of partnering with Dakota CC with CEO Michele Augert	Lise Thiessen	Will report at next meeting