



**Old Town Triangle Association
Meeting of the Board of Directors
November 8, 2011
1763 N. North Park Avenue**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Phil Graff, president

Attendance:

Directors Present: Tom Bracken, Debbie Day, Phil Graff, John Knoche, David Pfendler, Jacqui Thams, Jeffrey Smith

Directors Absent: Dan Barson, Rick Hyer, Alan Lougee

Attending: Karen Pfendler, Linda Sarli and Shannon Wakefield

Executive Director, Arts and Operations Director: Dee McKinsey, Leslie Wolfe

Originally, the plan was to suspend the agenda to discuss the proposal to change parking times in the Triangle from the present 6 p.m. to 12-midnight to 6 p.m. until 9:30 a.m. with Chasse Rehwinkel of Alderman Michele Smith's office. However, Rehwinkel was ill and asked the board to pass along their comments.

Led by Jacqui Thams, director, the board agreed it is a good idea to change the parking times to eliminate parking by individuals, who use the Triangle to park while they go to work in public transportation, such as the El or bus.

John Knoche, director, said that part of Concord already has this parking restriction, as does Eugenie, west of Sedgwick. To get the restrictions, he said the neighbors had to sign a petition that they agreed to the change. From the audience, Karen Pfendler said she would pass the petition, if needed.

The board did instruct Dee McKinsey to let LaSalle Language Academy know that the discussion was in progress.

As the next order of business, the board agreed to the minutes as amended during the meeting pertaining to the election.

Treasurer Knoche discussed the proposed budget, and said he did not think the budget would be approved at the meeting because additional work had to be done. Besides working at a deficit of

\$207,000, he said which was a little misleading because some of that figure comes from Capital Improvements, including \$50,000 which had already been approved, and the \$75,000 for the proposed tree program to begin next year, which he assumed had to go to general membership for approval. He said that he had, in the draft, given the Boy Scouts additional money, as requested.

Phil Graff pointed out that the salaries would soon be reduced.

Debbie Day suggested that the Capital Improvements have not been vetted for some time, even though they had been approved, and she said there probably should be a “refreshed” view. She also said that the board would not be able to make a decision on the proposed tree project, until they had a presentation – which hinges on a survey of the trees which should be concluded by Nov. 20.

David Pfendler, director, said that it never had been imagined that the tree program would not be done without an aspect of fund-raising.

Leslie Wolfe said that Alan Lougee, who is the chair of Capital Improvements, is looking at the new air conditioning system, with an eye to putting the unit on the roof, which may or may not be allowable.

Knoche said that he had no feedback from the board on the budget he proposed, which mirrors what had been allocated in the past; and Graff encouraged committee chairs to look at the budget to make certain they are adequately covered.

Committee Reports:

Art Fair Committee: Chair Day said that she has scheduled two meetings with an eye toward launching work on the Art Fair: Nov. 29 for a review of the documents of past fairs with Knoche, vice chair, and office staff, Wolfe and McKinsey. The second meeting would be Dec. 6, with two chairs included, Joan Goldstein of the Artists Committee, and Dan Barson, chair of First Sight, Friday Night, Knoche and again staff, Wolfe and McKinsey. She said she and Knoche also planned to have a conference call with former Chair Emily Rose to get any questions they might have answered.

The Dec. 6 meeting will be a meeting asking for input from the community and people who have volunteered for the art fair, including former chairs, in the form of filling out a written questionnaire. She said her goal would be to try and reach consensus, and to examine the current committee structure to see what should be retained and what is obsolete.

Director Pfendler said that he was working in the archives and had found documents that may be useful, and said he would try to pull together the documents that go back five years, as suggested.

Bylaws: Director Pfendler said that the bylaws committee had met on Monday, and decided against a line-by-line examination of the current document in favor of discussion and working separately on issues. Among the discussions: reducing the number of committees by combining them, allowing the board capacity of double membership on each committee of board members, rather than being stretched thin; the frequency of the meetings; have to clean up the document in several places, and structurally reorganizing.

From the audience, Karen Pfendler said that they found unanticipated issues that need to be addressed in the bylaws, and that they want to include a glossary, definitions and a table of contents. They also plan to reorganize the document.

Communications: Chair Jeff Smith reported that his committee agreed to bi-monthly publication of the Triangle newsletter: January, March, May, July, September and November. He said that member Robert Gibbs was trying to design a template in WordPerfect that might be acceptable, although the current designer had lowered his price per edition and might be another option.

Smith said that they were still investigating an internship program with Columbia and DePaul universities, and are putting together a job description with the duties outlined for any internship candidates. Due to budgetary restraints the intern or interns will not be paid.

He said that the committee is involved with the doggie calendar, and looking at Constant Contact and MailChimp as a way to better communication. He said that they were looking at methods of coding the membership for mass e-mailing.

Smith also said that the committee would like to learn the website and help with updating.

Continuing Education: Chair Thams said that the gallery committee would meet Thursday afternoon to choose the next exhibitors, and that Bob Dowey's class, which has only had one respondent will be moved to January's winter session. Graff said that shortening the class from 3 hours might be advisable as well.

Events: Chair Hyer was unable to attend, and in his absence Graff presented the event lineup:

1. Turkeyless potluck, Nov. 17. Thams suggested everyone bring a can of food for the annual food drive.
2. Miss Manners, Judith Martin, and her daughter, Bina, are coming to the Triangle, on Nov. 27.
3. The Holiday Party has begun with a suggestion from association Steve Ivanovich for caroling.

HD: Chair Barson was unable to attend, so Graff presented. Among his remarks, the architectural boat tour and brats event was successful; the landmark plaque replacement is ongoing; and the archives are being revamped by Director Pfendler, who talks about his plan for the project.

Membership: Director Knoche reports that there are 247 iBOT members currently; four new merchants and vendors; and the dinner was held the previous Friday for the winners of the September lottery for new members. He said the committee is considering another lottery and this time it would be for existing membership to bring in new members and win a prepared dinner.

Neighborhood Improvement: Chair Bracken acknowledges committee member, Karen Pfendler, for negotiating an expanded and cheaper garbage service with Lake Shore.

He said that committee members Linda Sarli and Karen Pfendler will work on a tree proposal for the board as soon as Charlie Miller of Care of Trees finishes his survey, presumably by the end of the week. From the audience Sarli told the board that the tree program, despite some false impressions, is for the

entire neighborhood. And, she said, some trees are in worse shape than others and they would be addressed first.

Director Pfendler said that Alderman Smith's office would be involved in a joint meeting with the Forestry Department to discuss Triangle trees, and hopefully, Smith would become an ombudsman for the tree program in the Triangle.

He said that he was waiting for his business cards to come in to go door-to-door in the Triangle to explain the tree program, gather e-mail and solicit new members.

Neighborhood Relations: Chair Thams discussed three upcoming events:

1. Annual Church of Three Crosses Giving for Good, fair-trade and green-minded shoppers can find a wide assortment of items to purchase while supporting cottage businesses. Saturday, Nov. 12, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 13, 1-4 p.m.
2. The Midwest Buddhist Temple celebrates its 40th anniversary this Sunday, Nov. 13, from noon to 3 p.m. Tours, temple history, Dharma talks and a question and answer presentation. Refreshments will be served.
3. St. Mike's Breakfast with Santa Dec. 4 with two seatings, 10 a.m. and 12-noon. Reservations needed.
4. Running group from St. Mikes meet with Triangle staff last Friday to discuss partnering with association for 5 K Run. Had 500 runners for their first event through Lincoln Park in September and raised around \$6,000. Want endorsement to run through the Triangle area, but instructed to get alderman and police support first. Their request for financial sponsorship and the OTTA membership list was turned down, politely. Director Day, who attends St. Mikes, said she thought the project was a good idea, and asked about the time frame, which could be next year, or 2013.

President's Report: Graff said the nominating committee work was nearly completed and the slate will be announced in a few days.

Executive Director Report: McKinsey presents a draft copy of suggested operations rules for the Triangle, and upcoming suggested holiday closings, which were approved.

The Daisies had their first meeting. It was successful with 30 Daisy members attending.

The discussion returned to the doggie calendar, and the board agreed to charge \$5 apiece for the calendars.

Art and Operations Report: Wolfe discusses the current gallery show, which officially opens this Sunday; the upcoming meeting on gallery selections for the coming year; and that she is working on the winter class schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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