

**Old Town Triangle Association  
Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors  
March 10, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Call or Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President, Fern Bomchill Davis

**Attendance**

Present: Chris Beer, Matt Beer, Martha Connolly, Fern Bomchill Davis, Debbie Day, Phil Graff, Alice Huff, Emily Rose, Dirk Vos, Michael Warnick. Administrators Shirley Baugher and Leslie Wolfe

Absent: Jeff Pines

**Approval of Minutes**

Suggestions were made to the amend the minutes regarding the proposed LaSalle School parking plan.

The Minutes were amended to read as follows:

A second presentation regarding LaSalle School was made by Principal Elizabeth Heurtefeu. She proposed enhancing teaching parking at the school with the addition of 20 to 22 slots on the southwest portion of the existing playground, just off Sedgwick and Eugenie. The space would be fenced off from the sidewalk, and would be used for staff parking during school hours. In the evening, it would be used as valet parking for Twin Anchors. The lot would be accessed by a new curb cut **which could be** off Sedgwick. Ms. Heurtefeu maintained that there is currently insufficient parking for teachers at the school and the added space would serve the dual purpose of providing teacher parking during the day and income-generating parking in the evening. The existing teachers lot, now used as valet parking for Twin Anchors at night, would be freed up for use by another restaurant, probably Marge's. Ms. Heurtefeu asked for input from the Board for the proposed plan. Preliminary responses showed that Board members were **not enthused** about taking space from the playground to accommodate additional parking.

The minutes were approved as amended.

**Treasurer's Report, *Martha Connolly***

Martha reported that the Triangle expenses and income for the month of February were **normal**, and that revenues from the Art Fair are starting to increase.

She presented a resolution concerning the procedure of **signing** checks as follows:

Resolved: That check, drafts or other orders of payment of money or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the corporation may be signed by any one OTTA administrator and one OTTA officer, or any two OTTA Officers as described in Article VII, Section 2 of the OTTA By-Laws. The resolution passed unanimously.

**Art Fair** *Chris Beer*

Chris reported that the last committee meeting was February 26, and all is moving along. The web site is on track with roll-out in April, and the music stage is nearly filled with performers. The food vending spaces are filled, and the committee is working on obtaining a beer vendor by 4/1.

This year, a new volunteer organization will help with staffing of the fair. "One Brick" will staff 2 gates at the Art Fair on Saturday. "One Brick" is a volunteer organization that provides volunteers for community events, and currently runs the staffing for the Sheffield Garden Walk.

The sponsorship deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Current sponsors include Luna Bars, WXRT, Yelp, Chicago Tribune, The Artful Framers, and Rose. Sponsors are still needed for badges and other office supplies as well as a sponsor to help offset printing costs. Sponsors will benefit from having their logos on the art fair poster and web site. Each media sponsor will have a 10 x 10 booth at the fair, with any activity confined to the booth space. Board members were asked for suggestions and help in **obtaining** any sponsors who may be interested in filling the remaining voids.

**Membership** *Michael Warnick*

Michael mentioned that the request to the membership to sign up for on-line delivery of the newsletter fell short of expectations. The notice will be printed in the next several newsletters to obtain more responses. A pilot project will be launched in the coming months using EMMA to notify members when the newsletter is available, and ask them to use EMMA as their means of receiving the newsletter to help keep printing and distribution costs down.

**Neighborhood Improvements** *Dirk Vos*

Dirk mentioned that Spring Cleanup Day is coming, but as far as he knew, no date has been set.

Possible projects for the upcoming year were mentioned. These may include a new sidewalk repair/replacement program for brick sidewalks, a bulletin board in South Ogden Park, and a program to deal with the Emerald Ash borer in case any trees become infected in the coming years.

**Contributions** *Alice Huff*

Alice reported that the request from LaSalle School was just received. She asked that a determination about funding be deferred until the April board meeting to allow more time to study the proposal.

**CAPS** *Shirley Baugher*

Much of the CAPS meeting was given over to a discussion of “squatters” who have been occupying a vacant property at Willow and North Park. Since the building is in foreclosure and is now owned by a bank, no one is currently looking after the property; and neighbors are uneasy about persons breaking in and living in the space. Officers are going to set up a surveillance team and work with the bank to get the building properly closed up until a sale is effected. Neighbors are urged to call 911 if they see suspicious persons going into the building.

Other participants in the meeting spoke of ongoing drug trafficking in the Eugenie/North Park area. One neighbor is taking down license plate numbers of cars seen stopping to meet with a person standing there and allegedly to make purchases. Again, neighbors witnessing such activities are asked to call 911 and give a report. Officers asked that persons calling in to report this activity stay on the line and give an ongoing account of what is happening. Hopefully, the police will arrive and can make an arrest before the “sale” is concluded. Perpetrators must be caught in the act before an arrest can be made.

**Gallery** *Leslie Wolfe*

Leslie announced the new show is up and on display until April 3<sup>rd</sup>. “Imprint in Silver” is a collection of photographs by Jon Balke. Jon is president of the Chicago Society of Artists, and a member of the OTTA. The opening reception is March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**President’s Report** *Fern Bomchill Davis*

Fern reported that a meeting had been held among several Board members, the principal of LaSalle Language Academy, parent representatives, some teachers, and Alderman Vi Daley. The main topic of discussion was a proposed parking lot to be placed in the southwest section of the playground to accommodate teacher parking. After hours, the spaces would be used for patrons of Twin Anchors. The current teachers’ lot, now used by Twin Anchors, would become valet parking for Marge’s. Ms. Huertefeu, the principal, explained her need for the additional spaces and the advantages that would accrue to the school if the parking were permitted.

Board members articulated their concerns and those of neighbors about taking playground space to enhance parking, both for teachers and restaurant patrons. They recommended that the principal and parent representatives return with an alternate parking plan and more specific drawings for a proposed addition to the existing building. Another small group meeting will be held to be followed by a community meeting on both projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

