

Old Town Triangle Association
Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors
May 12, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
1763 N North Park Avenue

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:10p.m. by Fern Bomchill-Davis, President

Attendance:

Present: Directors: Chris Beer, Fern Bomchill Davis, Martha Connolly, Philip Graff, Alice Huff, Emily Rose, Dirk Vos
Administrator: Leslie Wolfe
Absent: Directors: Matt Beer, Debbie Day, Jeff Pines, Michael Warnick
Administrator: Shirley Baugher

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes were unanimously approved as submitted

Treasurer's Report

Martha Connolly reported that the financial statements indicated normal expenditures for this time of year. Art Fair monies are coming in as well as tuition. There was brief discussion about maintaining an account in Corus Bank. It was decided to leave the CD account as is because it is FDIC insured.

Committee Reports

Condo: Martha Connolly, the Condo Representative, attended a special meeting of the condo on Monday, May 11. The immediate concern was necessary repair work to the building plumbing. Don McDougall, third floor resident, had done extensive research and provided three bids. The Condo has worked with two of the contractors, and a new one was brought in on recommendation. The total bid came in at about \$9,000, variable with discovery as the walls are opened up. The Condo has \$2,600 saved to be used for this purpose. The Triangle will be responsible for 32% of the total remaining, which could be \$3,000-\$3,500.

The Condo also discussed a priority list of projects. Roof insulation and then porches will be addressed. It is still to be determined what percentage the Triangle will owe toward the porches. Martha and Fern will review the Condo declaration. A Triangle Board member will be asked to review the Triangle insurance to be sure it is properly covered for any liabilities.

Art Fair: Chair Chris Beer reported that the big news is the new website, which went live on Friday, May 8. Anyone can visit www.oldtowntriangle.com, www.oldtowntriangle.org, www.oldtownartfair.com, or www.oldtownartfair.org to arrive at the single new website.

Phil Graff got the Paypal key operational on the new site so that everyone can buy tickets for First Sight Friday Night party. New features include a list of all of the participating Art Fair artists with images and contact information. There is also a new volunteer form which will simplify coordinating volunteers. Chris said the final Art Fair meeting for committee chairs will be held May 21 at the Triangle.

Chris showed the Board the new blue shopping bag and umbrella with the logo which will be priced to sell at the Fair.

There was discussion about the potholes on Wisconsin. The City will repave at a later date, and has indicated it will patch in the meantime. Leslie will contact Vi Daley's office for the schedule.

Neighborhood Improvements: Dirk Vos updated the Board on ongoing projects.

- Nookies will get two bike racks, installed by the Department of Transportation.
- North/South Ogden Park is getting new plants on Sedgwick. Kinsella will also replace dead plants in Pocket Parks.
- The leak under the fountain in South Ogden will be fixed by the City
- Ken Mullin is collecting funds from neighbors to match Triangle funds for the Fern/Willow Project. The fencing had been improved and there will be new planting.
- There will be new trash cans, similar to the ones in place, and/or repaired cans.
- Kinsella may be hired to do more maintenance work as they are doing such a good job with Pocket Parks and OTT Park.
- LaSalle Language Academy may back away from its parking lot plans as it is considering a "green" project with the City and CPS.
- Spring Clean & Green was very successful in spite of rain. St Paul's Church, north of the Triangle, sent good workers. Local churches will be invited next year. The Triangle will request more equipment for loan from the City, or possibly buy a few tools.
- Parkways and Sidewalk Brick Program Proposal: throughout the Triangle there are deteriorating brick walkways. The Plan would work like the Tree Partner program. Preferred brick vendors and installers have been found. Any member using these vendors, with an approved plan, could receive up to 20% reimbursement for materials and labor from the Triangle. The current price for work is quoted at \$5-7/sq ft. Neighbors working together might be able to reduce the price of work done. Fern indicated liability should not fall on the Triangle for merely reimbursing costs.

Contributions: Alice Huff presented a request from the music department at Lincoln Park High School for new instruments. Fern suggested that the Triangle offer an even number: \$10,000. The Board unanimously voted to approve the proposal on the condition that the standard application form be filled in by Lincoln.

Gallery: Leslie Wolfe reported on the current artist, Carl Holzman, and that the show has sold well. The Board asked for information on how much an artist gives to the Triangle after a sale (10%), and if artists have consistently paid. Leslie will check the records.

Emily Rose brought up an issue that has developed at opening receptions. There is a group of “regulars” who come to shows not in support of the artist or the art, but to gather for wine and treats. Emily said as a public not-for-profit group, we wish to welcome everyone to the Gallery, but that some subtle changes might be in order. We are going to ask the Gallery Committee to get more involved with hosting, or possibly serving at openings. We are going to remove chairs from the gallery space. We will suggest artists only offer finger food (no plates) and that we use smaller cups. The Board was supportive of the ideas presented to bring the focus back to the art. Fern asked that an email blast go out announcing gallery openings.

President’s Report: Fern Bomchill Davis said that she loves the Spring Clean & Green not just for the actual cleaning, but for the community created. She wants to encourage poker nights (no actual gambling inside the Triangle), or ballroom dancing, or whatever other activities the community might enjoy. She asked for volunteers from the Board to pursue the idea. Emily Rose said she would put together an Emma survey, which she will present at the July meeting. It will include questions about what programs members would like to see and what services they might be looking to have. Fern asked if the Board would like to have a meeting about the Lincoln Park Village. It was decided Fern will have Diane Campbell call the Triangle to set a date for a meeting.

Administrators Report: Leslie announced a new yoga class meeting Wednesday and Friday mornings from 6-7am. Member Joan Janowski approached the Triangle for a space at the closing of the Wells Street Athletic Club. The teacher and her class have happily moved here, and hope to build the group.

New Business: Dhamitha Arakularatna & Hi Neighbor Program

Philip Graff invited and introduced Dhamitha Arakularatna to the Board to initiate discussion about how to build the Triangle membership. Dhamitha suggested that technology, and more specifically area wide WiFi might be utilized to grow the community. He suggested there might be specific benefits to offer to members: access to WiFi; immediate access to alerts; access to coupons from local businesses; pushcart end-of-day sales; a bracelet that could be used as currency in the Triangle, to name a few. The Board discussed the new ideas and came to the conclusion that the Triangle is not ready, but that the OTTA should look at membership, possibly expanding the membership committee, and defining the organization. Technology is already impacting how OTTA reaches out, and may cause some redefinition of the current approaches. It was decided that the '09 Art Fair would not be the platform to expand

membership other than at the Information table. There will be a clipboard at Information to collect more emails, along with membership forms. Chris and Emily said they would offer a light policy or guidelines for the use of Emma at the July Board meeting. They are pleased with everyone's eager use of Emma, but realize OTTA needs to be more consistent in its presentation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

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