

**Old Town Triangle Association
Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors
October 13, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
1763 N. North Park Avenue**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Call to Order

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

Attendance:

Board Members: Chris Beer, Matt Beer, Martha Connolly, Fern Bomchill Davis, Debbie Day, Phil Graff, Alice Huff, , Jeff Pines, Emily Rose, Dirk Vos, Michael Warnick

Administrators: Shirley Baugher and Leslie Wolfe

Presentation on LaSalle School Development Project: *Dana Levenson and Chuck Bernardini*
Messrs. Levenson and Bernardini informed Directors that the planning and development phase of the LaSalle School Development Project has been completed, and they are contacting potential donors to fund the expansion. Their plan is to raise half of the necessary funding, estimated at \$1,000,000, and go to the Chicago Board of Education for the other half. They noted that CPS is aware of the project and have responded favorably.

As was originally stated, the addition will be composed of a two-story, free-standing addition to the existing campus located to the south of the Orleans Street classroom wing and separated from the existing building by a small, gated green courtyard. The addition will be connected to the existing building by a small corridor at the existing exterior doors which would allow access from the school or for the remainder of the school to be closed off and allow access to the addition only from the outside. The addition will be the same depth as the existing Orleans Street classroom wing and will be essentially a square. It will cover about 13 percent of the existing playground space. There is no plan to increase enrollment at the school based on the addition. When not in use by students, the addition might be available for rental by the community at a nominal cost. The existing curb cut may be moved, but no trees will be lost.

The new space will consist of a multi-purpose room to allow for tutoring, a computer lab, music classes, a performing arts center, and all-school meetings. Since the architect's design that is currently being considered may or may not be final, LaSalle representatives will return to the OTTA Board to present the completed design and report on the project's financial status.

While LaSalle is seeking OTTA support as a representative community body, the Association made it clear that the organization does not and cannot speak for the community.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the September 2009 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

OTTA Membership Survey Summary *Emily Rose*

Emily stated that the survey response rate was 25 percent—50 percent online and 10 percent from direct mail. Overall conclusions were as follows:

- Members like the way OTTA keeps them in touch with what's happening in the community.
- OTTA plays an important role in helping members get to know their neighbors but feel there is room for improvement.
- OTTA could do a better job of providing relevant services to the community and to its membership in the following areas: (1) more frequent and relevant e-mail updates on what is happening both on the Board and in the community; (2) more capital improvements in the neighborhood, (3) more actual neighborhood news, (4) an ongoing calendar of events, and more transparency with respect to what is going on in the Association through posting of Minutes.
- Membership should be increased and benefits of membership publicized.
- Keep existing events, which are popular, and implement new activities such as speakers and high-interest classes.
- Respondents like the newsletter, but would like to see inclusion of a quarterly or monthly calendar of events, enhanced promotion of events, inclusion of more people and events in the editorial, and monthly features on contributions.
- A range plan should be created to address community needs.

Fern will address survey responses in her next President's message, including an explanation of where the money goes. She plans to appoint a Long-Range Planning Committee, to be chaired by Emily Rose, and will start a discussion of the role of this committee at the January meeting.

Treasurer's Report *Martha Connolly*

Martha stated that expenses for the month of September 2009 were normal and that there were no extraordinary income or expenses to report. She added that she would be looking for opportunities to reinvest the Association's money to assure the highest return on our investments.

Approval of 2009-2010 Budget

Art Fair *Chris Beer, General Chair*

There were no changes to the Art Fair budget presented at the September meeting. Chris is requesting a budget of \$100,300 to cover expenses of the 2010 Fair; and a budget of \$18,100 for the *First Sight, Friday Night* event.

Neighborhood Improvements *Dirk Vos, Chairman*

There were no changes to the Neighborhood Improvements budget presented at the September meeting. Neighborhood Improvements is requesting \$45,500 for its activities. (*Note: this figure does not include the entire sum of the \$5,900 submitted and discussed for the upkeep of the Triangle Park at Clark and Wisconsin. It is likely a second vote will be needed to approve the correct amount.*)

Membership *Michael Warnick, Chairman*

Michael presented a revised budget to cover expenses that might be incurred as a result of implementation of the Membership Survey recommendations. He also noted that items 082

(\$4,500 for newsletter mailing & postage and 081 (\$9,000 for newsletter production costs) were transposed. He corrected this. With the addition of \$1,500, the total Membership budget request for 2009-2010 is \$19,900.

Gallery/Art School *Emily Rose, Chairman*

There were no changes to the Gallery/Art School budget presented at the September meeting. The total Gallery/Art School budget for 2009-2010 is \$37,000.

Boy Scout Troop 79 *Alice Huff*

There was no change to the Boy Scout Troop 79 budget presented in September. The total 2009-2010 request is \$3,700.

Historic District/Planning & Zoning (Community) *Jeff Pines*

There was no change to the HD/PZ request presented in September. The budget for HD/PZ, which includes CAPS, for 2009-2010 is \$1,200.

Contributions *Alice Huff*

There was no change in the Contributions request from the budget presented in September. Contributions is requesting \$45,000 for 2009-2010.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the OTTA 2009-2010 budget as revised. The President asked for discussion, and Director Dirk Vos requested discussion on line items for budgets not previously reviewed and tentatively approved in the September meeting. This was done. The President asked that the first motion be withdrawn and a second motion put forth to approve the 2009-2010 budget as revised. The motion was made, and seconded. The revised budget was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Art Fair *Chris Beer, General Chair*

The holidays are right around the corner. If you're looking for a fun gift for a fellow fan of Old Town, consider purchasing several of our vintage OTAF posters and having them framed at Art de Triumph (www.artdetriumph.com, 773-832-4038), the official framing sponsor of the 2009 Old Town Art Fair. For more information on the availability of OTAF posters, contact Leslie Wolfe at lwolfe@oldtowntriangle.com.

The kick-off meeting for the 2010 Old Town Art Fair will be held on November 12, 2009. If you are interested in becoming more involved with the event, please contact Chris Beer at chair@oldtownartfair.org or 312-320-5992. We would love to welcome more neighbors to the committee! As always, thank you for your continued support of the Old Town Art Fair.

Membership *Michael Warnick*

Michael reminded members that the fall hoe down would take place on Saturday, October 17, in the Triangle building. Although a number of neighbors volunteered to make chili for the chili contest and others are bringing cole slaw and corn bread, more food is needed. The Board is encouraged to get the word out and to bring friends to the event. The *Whiskey Holler Bluegrass Band* will perform. There will be a moonwalker and balloon creatures crafted onsite for the children.

CAPS *Shirley Baugher, Liaison*

Shirley reviewed the situation regarding the house at 1739 N. North Park. Briefly, there are squatters living in the building who cannot be evicted without a court order. A hearing is scheduled for October 22 at 9:30 in the Daley Center which is expected to produce the order. There is also a case pending in Building Court following a visit from building inspectors who deemed the place to be uninhabitable. Once both warrants are served and notice posted in the newspapers and on the building, the occupants will be forced to leave.

President's Report *Fern Bomchill Davis*

A nominating committee of five persons was named by the President to submit names for the 2010 OTTA Board. Two Directors' terms are up: Matt Beer and Emily Rose. All of the officers are up for reelection. Named to the committee are: Linda Sarli, Ton Payne, Anne Giffels, Sheila Bracken, and Alice Bruner. Emily Rose was named the Board representative and will serve as chairman of the committee. The chair will submit recommendations to the Secretary by November 1.

A Capital Improvements Committee was created to study the physical plant and determine what repairs or changes must be made to maintain the overall condition of the building and what changes should be effected to improve its physical appearance. Maratha Connolly will chair a committee of four to study conditions and make recommendations.

In an attempt to let members know what the Association is doing for the benefit of the neighborhood and the fulfillment of the OTTA's mission, contributions will now be published in the newsletter. Where recipients are individuals or groups, photographs will accompany an explanatory article.

New Business

Director Phil Graff requested use of the south room for a small group of online skaters during the winter months. There was some discussion, but no vote was taken.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.