

Old Town Triangle Association
Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors
November 9, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
1763 N. North Park Avenue

Call to Order

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

Attendance

Directors: Sue Apey, Chris Beer, Fern Bomchill Davis, Debbie Day, Phil Graff, Alice Huff, John Knoche, Jeff Pines, Emily Rose, Jacqui Thams, Dirk Vos

Administrators: Shirley Baugher and Leslie Wolfe

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

LaSalle School Presentation *Dana Levenson and Bob Weil*

Dana addressed the Board by stating that he was asking neighborhood support for the LaSalle Expansion Project. He stressed that plans had not changed since their original presentation: construction of a multiplex classroom on the Orleans side of the building to be used for tutoring, meetings, performances, and computer instruction. Only 13 percent of the existing playlot would be affected. No additional parking is proposed . LaSalle has raised \$350,000 and is asking the Board of Education to provide additional funds needed for the addition. He anticipates the total cost of the project will be one million dollars and he believes the Board will approve the proposal. He requested that the Triangle Board sign a statement of endorsement which would be presented to the Chicago Board of Education the following day. The President said that the Board would discuss the matter and also get input from the organization.

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

About ten to fifteen members and non-members attended to make statements and ask questions concerning the addition of a new Executive Director position and other matters. The President attempted to provide a background and to correct any misunderstandings. Among other things, the President reminded the attendees that a Survey had been sent to all Triangle members in 2009 regarding the needs and desires of the membership. Based on responses to the Survey, the Board decided to establish a Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) All OTTA members and other community members were informed about the LRPC and were invited to join the committee, chaired by Emily Rose. Over the next six months, the LRPC developed their recommendations. The LRPC subsequently presented their recommendations to the Board, which, with modifications, were accepted. Among the recommendations accepted was the creation of an Executive Director position. It was also recommended and accepted that the position should be filled by someone outside the neighborhood. The Board conducted a candidate search to find the person most qualified to carry out the recommendations. After examining the credentials of the various candidates, the Board hired Dala (Dee) McKinsey. Fern introduced Ms. McKinsey to the attendees.

A long discussion followed, and participants were given an opportunity to voice their opinions. The President promised to consider their input with the Board and get back to them.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the October meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

LaSalle School Request

Directors discussed the matter and decided to send an e-mail blast to the membership informing them that the plan for the addition was in the office and inviting them to come in, view the plan, and send their opinions directly to LaSalle School.

Formal Introduction of Dee McKinsey

The President formally introduced Dee McKinsey to the Board and asked if she had any comments she would like to make. Ms. McKinsey repeated that she is currently working with the Salvation Army's Red Kettle program. Her goal with respect to the OTTA Executive Director position is to "bring professionalism to the organization, to move the organization forward, and to market the Association to the broader community".

Treasurer's Report

John Knoche, Treasurer

The Treasurer reported that program revenues were up, and that the art classes are doing very well. He commented on the success of the brick program which has received high praise from neighbors who participated. He also noted that Ms. McKinsey's salary needed to be added to the budget.

Capital Improvements *Sue Apey, Chairman*

A total of \$76,974 was approved for numerous capital improvements. The figure has risen to slightly more than \$82,000. There was discussion of what expenses would be put into the capital improvements budget. It was decided that actual capital improvements to the facility will come from the reserve fund. **It was generally felt that the maintenance work could be done immediately.** There was also a question of when to make changes in the air conditioning system. It was decided that these changes needed to be made by the end of the current fiscal year.

Nominating Committee Report

Jeff Pines, Chairman

Jeff reported that the Nominating Committee, composed of Phyllis Hall, Linda Sarli, Claire Leamon, and himself, had met and selected the following members for the OTTA slate of officers and directors 2011:

- President Philip Graff
- First Vice President Shannon Waterfield
- Secretary Todd Humes
- Treasurer Tom Midura
- Director Beth Burk
- Director Robin Cecola

After a brief discussion, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Nominating Committee's slate.

Art Fair

Emily Rose, General Chair

Emily reported that the poster image had been approved. She also announced the creation of a "Children's Poster Contest", which would invite submissions from the Old Town community and the Menomonee Club.

Membership

John Knoche, Chairman

John indicated that he was working to encourage members who had not paid their dues to renew their memberships in the organization.

Historic District/Planning & Zoning Committee *Jeff Pines, Chairman*

Committee members have devised a plan to organize and update the archives room. They are also exploring ways of expanding the HD/PZ into the web design.

Events *Chris Beer, Chairman*

Chris reported that the hoe-down event was a big success, attracting a larger crowd than had attended any previous hoe-downs. She announced that the Annual Holiday Party would be held on Sunday, December 5, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Entertainment for the event would include a concert by the Sounds of Sweetness from Walter Payton College Prep High School, a crafts project supervised by Amy Ewaldt, and the popular Moonwalker Bounce. The party will be held jointly with the December Gallery Opening, an exhibition of paintings by Elizabeth Weber.

Gallery Committee *Jacqui Thams, Chairman*

The Gallery Committee will meet on November 11 to view images by artists applying for a month-long show in the Triangle Gallery during the coming year.

Contributions *Alice Huff, Co-Chair*

Letters and contributions application forms have been sent to former recipients of OTTA grants. Contributions granted in 2010 may be viewed online.

Neighborhood Relations *Debbie Day, Chairman*

Debbie announced that she had recruited ten new members to serve on the Neighborhood Relations Committee.

By-Laws Amendment Proposals

Emily Rose recommended the following changes to the OTTA By-Laws

1. Article VI Section 1--that the term length of the Art Fair Chair and Vice-Chair be changed from a period of two years to a period of one year. The Board voted unanimously to approve the change.
2. That, under Article V, Section 2 the Art Fair Chair may reside outside the Triangle and would serve as an *ad hoc* member of the Board.

There was discussion with respect to the second recommendation. One director asked why the position of Art Fair Chair be considered as Second Vice- President, suggesting that the position be an *ad hoc* one only. Another director proposed that the Art Fair Chair not serve as a Board member. There was also a recommendation that the position of Second Vice President be eliminated altogether. No decision was reached.

Following this discussion, the Board went into Executive Session.