

**Old Town Triangle Association
Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors
December 14, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
1763 N. North Park Avenue**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING (Amended)

Call to Order

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

Attendance

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

Executive Director, Dee McKinsey; **Administrators**, Shirley Baugher and Leslie Wolfe

Guests: Todd Humes, Shannon Waterfield, Phyllis Hall

Approval of Minutes: Director Dirk Vos offered a motion to approve the Minutes. There was no second. Director John Knoche indicated that he could not vote on the Minutes since he felt they were incomplete; but he did not wish to have a discussion. Director Vos then withdrew his motion. The Minutes were not approved.

Treasurer's Report John Knoche, Treasurer

The Treasurer reported that the Board needed to account for the new Executive Director's compensation by modifying the budget.

He further reported that Vanguard funds had been moved from bonds to a money market account. He indicated that the Board should come up with rules for investment of funds in the future.

Both the Board and OTTA employees must sign conflict of interest statements since the IRS is scrutinizing non-profits more carefully.

He suggested that bound copies of the audit be available for review and that a presentation be made at the next Board meeting.

Art Fair Report Emily Rose, General Chair

Emily reported that the Old Town Art Fair had been selected by AmericanStyle Magazine as one of the top ten art fairs in the country.

She raised the issue of fair sponsorships, indicating that many companies were willing to pay a fee in exchange for an onsite presence. She asked Board members if this should be allowed, especially since gate revenues were down in 2010. Board Secretary Chris Beer objected to the onsite presence of sponsors because of the nature of the Old Town fair. She thought the presence of too many sponsors could cheapen the fair. Because of the possibility of enhanced revenues, however, she suggested dealing with requests on a case-by-case basis. Directors Debbie Day and Sue Apey agreed with this position. President Fern Bomchill Davis was open to the idea of more sponsorship if

money was an issue, but believed sponsors should keep a low profile at the fair. Emily added that having sponsors at the fair might be acceptable if they were a good fit. Director Dirk Vos suggested that the idea be tabled for the 2011 fair and that a policy regarding onsite sponsor presence be adopted for future fairs.

Neighborhood Improvements Dirk Vos, Chairman

Dirk reported that the brick program had been very successful, and that many Old Town neighbors had offered positive feedback. To date, \$14,000 have been reimbursed to participating neighbors. **Participation in our "October Special" offering a 40% discount for that month only was particularly strong. The brick program discount reverted to 20% in November and will continue at this level for the remainder of 2010-11. The anticipated variance to plan for the program will occur as discussed and approved during the budget review.**

Historic District/Planning & Zoning Jeff Pines, Chairman

Jeff reported that the Committee would consider a presentation put forth by condo owners of the building at 228 W. St. Paul. Owners want to retain the rear deck, stairs, and pergola on the building. Since no permits have been located for the construction of the features in question, it is assumed that these were built without permits over ten years ago by a previous owner. When the property was converted to a three-unit condominium, the rear deck, stairs, and pergola already existed. The committee must make a recommendation on whether or not to recommend the condo owners' position.

Events Committee Chris Beer, Chairman

Chris noted that the OTTA Annual Holiday Party and food drive were a huge success. She also thought that combining the party with the December gallery opening was a good idea and should be continued. The next event will be the Annual Dinner and Election on January 27, 2111.

With respect to the upcoming election, Chris said that four additional candidates had delivered the requisite number of petitions to be slated on the ballot. They are: Steve Weiss, President; Pat Hall, Treasurer; Candace Jordan, Director; and David Pfenner, Director. John Knoche, Jacqui Thams, Michael Warnick, and Chris met to verify the signatures on the petitions and determined that they were valid. Chris will contact each candidate and request bios from them. On the bios, candidates must include a photo, the length of their residency in the Triangle, and a statement about why they believe they should be elected to the Board. This information will be sent to all eligible voters. The mailing will also include a notice of the election, a ballot(s), and an identification page for each voter. Packets will be assembled during the week of January 3 and mailed on January 10. Voters will have two weeks to submit their ballots. A secured box will be kept in the office for voters to mail or drop off their votes. All votes must be received no later than 7:00 p.m. on January 27. Election judges will tally the votes, and the winners will be announced before the end of the meeting.

Membership John Knoche, Chairman

John reported that several problems had been found in the data base regarding renewal dates; and that there were five to ten members whose were questionable in terms of their eligibility to vote. He suggested that, in the future, renewals should be entered the day they came into the office.

Contributions Alice Huff, Co-Chairman

No requests for contributions have been received to date. Requests for contribution forms are available on the web site; and forms have been sent to all persons/organizations who have been previous grant recipients.

Neighborhood Relations Debbie Day, Chairman

A meeting to discuss future use of the Lincoln Park Hospital facility was held at Lincoln Park High School. About 350 persons attended. Representatives from the city talked about zoning. They recommended a multi-use facility to include 120 residential units, underground parking, office space, sales and storage areas, and a Fresh Market. The Fresh Market component is being contested by neighbors closest to the site because of traffic congestion created by delivery trucks. Alderman Daly hopes to have a decision on the project before she leaves office.

Debbie reported that an eligibility study is underway for use of the Children's Memorial Hospital property.

Administrators' Reports

Shirley Baugher asked if the Board still wished to hold a town hall meeting for neighbors to meet the candidates running for Alderman of the 43rd Ward since the Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce is holding a similar meeting on the DePaul Campus January 13. Directors felt that a Triangle event would be unnecessary. They also suggested that candidates' names be listed in the newsletter but not their bios or photographs.

Leslie Wolfe called attention to the current gallery show by Elizabeth Weber and noted that three pieces had been sold at the opening, which was held in concert with the Old Town Holiday Party. Leslie reported that the Triangle maintenance man, Tom Angelo, is improving and hopes to be back to work soon. In the meantime, Phyllis Hall has recommended the name of a person to perform needed maintenance tasks in the interim period.

Capital Improvements Sue Apey, Chairman

Sue explained to Directors that it would not be possible to complete all of the recommended capital improvements in one fiscal year, and that it would be necessary to confirm where the money was coming from before work could begin. The following figures were approved by the Board to be completed in the 2010-2011 fiscal year:

\$12,188 for maintenance

\$45,852 for capital improvements

A motion was passed to approve \$21,202 for air conditioning and \$2,519 for maintenance in the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

Executive Director's Report Dee McKinsey

Dee thanked the Board for their support and said that she would be seeking their input on her plans and recommendations in the coming months.

The President called the Board into Executive Session at 8:40 p.m.