

**Old Town Triangle Association  
Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors  
April 12, 2011  
1763 N. North Park Avenue**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by Phil Graff, President

**Attendance**

**Directors Present:** Sue Apey, Tom Bracken, Robin Cecola, Debbie Day, Phil Graff, Tom Midura, Emily Rose, Jeffrey Smith, Jacqui Thams

**Executive Director & Administrators:** Dee McKinsey, Leslie Wolfe

President Phil Graff suspended the meeting to welcome the newly elected 43<sup>rd</sup> Ward Alderman Michele Smith, who addressed the group of more than 30 people attending the meeting, and the board. She thanked everyone for their support, and especially that of community organizations, such as the Triangle. One of the innovations under consideration, she said, was a telephone APP that would allow residents to take pictures of problems, such as potholes, and send them directly to her office.

Among other remarks:

- Working on a fully functioning website that will migrate to her before the May 16<sup>th</sup> swearing in.
- Says she has met with current Ald. Vi Daley to implement an easy transition.
- She also is looking for a 2,000-foot office, probably not the same one that Daley is currently occupying, and perhaps in some of the empty spaces along Clark Street.
- Wants to support the schools, especially Lincoln Park High School
- Looking for volunteers to help the transition and the office, also will be doing fund-raising for extra staff because the city allowance is not enough to accomplish needed tasks.

**President Graff Remarks**

The meeting resumed at 7:28 p.m., with President Phil Graff giving a brief report. Among his remarks was noting the date as the anniversary to the Civil War, and that was what the neighborhood had seemed like lately. Noted that several board members had resigned, prompting some additions to the board, and shifting into new roles: Director Debbie Day will become board secretary; John Knoche will rejoin the board assuming his former role as Treasurer, replacing departing treasure Tom Midura, who resigned effective after the April 12 meeting. Tom Bracken joined the board, as did Jeff Smith as First Vice President, and Jeff will assume the chair of the Communications Committee being vacated by Robin Cecola, who also resigned after the April 12 meeting.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Debbie Day, board secretary, moved that the minutes from the last meeting be approved, with a correction on the spelling of Dirk Vos's name. Jacqui Thams seconded that motion, and the board approved.

### **Treasurers' Report**

Tom Midura gave the treasurers report and said that the Triangle Association balance sheet was strong and was tracking ahead, mainly due to \$90,000 already in house for art fair booth rentals.

### **Capital Improvements Committee**

Sue Apey said that the replacement of the floor in the Triangle Center is scheduled for the week of June 20, which will be after the art fair and the volunteers' thank-you party and reception. She also said that the windows will be replaced. Bracken questioned why, and Apey said that the wood around the windows was deteriorating.

### **Communications Committee**

Robin Cecola said that the retooling of the Triangle website had been winnowed down to two vendors, but had been put on hold until after the Art Fair.

### **Continuing Education**

Jacqui Thams said that there had been a new show and that classes were continuing.

### **Contributions**

Sue Apey said that the deadline for submissions was April 15 for the grants that go out in May. She said that she had received applications from the Lake front sculpture group and Deborah's Place, among others. She noted that the deadlines for the two granting periods are April 15 and November 15.

### **Art Fair**

Emily Rose said the art fair is tracking on schedule, getting booth and food vendors. She said that they would begin recruiting volunteers in the next two weeks, and that the final committee meeting will be Thursday, May 19. She said that Leslie Wolfe was working with both vendor groups to make sure this is on target.

Rose did say that there was a proposal to disallow street fairs to charge entrance fees, but no action at this time.

Several other committees still have vacancies in their chairs, and Graff said there would be movement toward filling those positions. Dee McKinsey reported that the Neighborhood Improvement Committee was moving ahead on the May 7<sup>th</sup> Cleanup Day, and would have a meeting May 18.

### **President's Report**

Of the board three board positions remaining, Graff said the by-laws were unclear about how they should be filled, since their terms are more than one year. After some discussion among board

members and the floor, Cecola suggested that a committee be assembled of former board officers to make a recommendation how to proceed with filling those vacancies, other than holding an election, which Graff said the bylaws do not mandate.

Bracken noted that opposition board members had resigned recently vacating their positions and causing these vacancies. He posed the question that they could rescind their resignations.

Cecola again said they could either retain counsel on the issue, or form a committee to make recommendations. That recommendation was accepted by the board, with the suggestion that board officers from the last seven years be asked if they could join this committee.

### **Old Business**

Graff said that the board had the suggestions of the bylaw committee for changes in the bylaws, and noted that Beth Burk, who chaired the committee, had resigned. After some discussion, Bracken agreed to take on the committee.

The Meeting was then adjourned at 8:15 p.m., and went into Executive Session.