



**Old Town Triangle Association
Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors
May 10, 2011
1763 N. North Park Avenue**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. by Phil Graff, President

Attendance

Directors Present: Sue Apey, Tom Bracken, Debbie Day, Phil Graff, Kelly Cooney, Jeffrey Smith, by telephone.

Absent: Emily Rose, Jacqui Thams

Executive Director, Arts and Administration Director: Dee McKinsey, Leslie Wolfe

Approval of Minutes: Board Secretary Debbie Day moved the approval of minutes, seconded by John Knoche and affirmed by the rest of the board members attending.

Treasurer's Report: John Knoche said before he left the board earlier this year as treasurer, he had moved all the bonds in the interest of fiscal responsibility and in order to give the new treasurer the opportunity to decide where to put the funds. Now, that he has returned, Knoche said he believed that it was time go back into bonds.

Knoche also suggested that the board consider find a new auditor, considering that the current auditor has had an affiliation with a former employee and a vendor. Knoche said that two previous treasurers had no problem with retaining this auditor, but he said it would be a good idea to solicit bids from others to do Triangle auditing. He asked the board for their feedback. Day suggested that the Triangle begin of the process of exploring other auditors for the work. Sue Apey seconded the motion, and the board agreed.

Knoche also suggested a change in the board fiscal year, because essentially a sitting board is handed a budget devised by a previous board. No action was taken.

Knoche also said that there was a projected budget deficit in salaries, which was not anticipated because of personnel action that had not been anticipated. The association had only anticipated paying two employees not three.

Also noted that in Neighborhood Improvements the budget line for the brick program might not be as great as in the previous year due to the resignation of Shannon Cecola from the program. He cautioned that perhaps it would not be wise to be aggressive this year due to the budgetary shortfall.

Other reports:

Art Fair: Kelly Cooney gave the report in Emily Rose's absence. Says the posters look great, and are expected to be ready by Friday.

She said that First Night invitations were going out this week. Adobo was providing food and margaritas.

The artists' work would be up on the website by the end of the week.

She listed several paid media placements, including the Tribune, Redeye, etc.

Graff discussed traffic for the Art Fair and encouraged those in the audience to volunteer for this area of volunteerism during the art fair.

He also discussed that First Sight had increased prices this year: \$75 for members in advance; \$95 for non-members and \$95 at the door. The \$95 price would include membership in OTTA as part of the membership drive.

Capital Improvements: Sue Apey said the floor would be replaced after the art fair, and the window replacement is before the Landmark Committee. She said that the front doors will either be restored or replaced. No decision yet.

Apey asked that there be a category on the website for the Capital Improvements Committee so that membership can see the status of projects.

Communications: Jeff Smith said that is working with membership, and also looking at website design after the Art Fair is over, and is looking at tactical ways to reach new members, churches and other community groups. Wants to make the website more user friendly, and have a more robust social media, new media outreach.

Also working on Knoche's recommendation of using non-traditional vendors, such as college interns. Will be looking at Loyola, DePaul, Columbia and Northwestern for free or cheap labor. Wants the website to be blog based, with a content management system that is easy to do, and that would mean that the website would not have to be redone for another 8-10 years.

Would like to use the block captain for outreach, communications and recruitment.

Continuing Education: Report given by Leslie Wolfe, who discusses the Barry Reithmeier opening on Sunday, and the Student/Faculty art show June 5.

Contributions: Sue Apey discussed the awards and after minor adjustment, the board approved the following:

The Lincoln Park High School's Performing Arts Department was awarded \$10,115 from the Old Town Triangle Association's (OTTA) Contributions Committee, which grants money set aside from proceeds from the annual Old Town Art Fair to help non-profit organizations and schools in the Old Town Triangle area.

LPHS, 2001 N. Orchard St., will use the money to purchase a tuba, bassoon and piccolo. Currently they have 500 students in the LPHS band and orchestra program, with only 350 instruments.

OTTA also gave LPHS another grant, which would allow two English teachers to attend a summer conference in Boston by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. The two teacher trips will be partly funded by an association grant of \$3,300, and the teachers will bring back professional development information to share with their colleagues.

Abraham Lincoln Public School, 615 W. Kemper Pl., will receive \$10,000 to help purchase science laboratory tables, chairs, equipment, teacher demonstration tables, new cabinetry and additional sinks. The project to update the 7th and 8th grade science labs is being spearheaded by The Friends of Lincoln, and will begin this spring. It is projected to take two years to complete.

LaSalle Language Academy, 1734 N. Orleans St., was awarded a \$6,050 grant by the Association board at its meeting May 10. The money will be used to support a school wide fine arts residency in music, entitled "Found Music." Students will create music from "found" objects and ambient sound to give them the ability to compose and create music. The residency also will include various musicians visiting the school and performing. Movies, field trips to a music studio and student performances will also be part of the program.

Additionally, OTTA has awarded LaSalle a second grant of \$3,000, which would partly fund trips aboard for four to six students during the 2011-2012 school year. The school will award grants for half the cost of the trips to students, who might not be able to go abroad without assistance. More than 1,000 LaSalle students have participated in trips to China, France, Spain and Italy since the program began.

The Franklin Fine Arts Center, 225 W. Evergreen Ave., will receive \$3,000 to purchase a media cart equipped with a laptop, digital presenter, project and portable interactive whiteboard.

Other awards:

- Lincoln Park Village, 2502 N. Clark St., \$3,000 to help their program supporting Lincoln Park community members to stay in their homes with assistance. The funds will be used to support four member-plus memberships, which allow elders with incomes of less than \$45,000 to access Village services and activities at a reduced rate.
- Lakefront Sculpture Exhibit, \$2,500 to support an outdoor sculpture exhibit in the 43rd and 44th wards of Lincoln Park.
- Deborah's Place, 1530 N. Sedgwick, \$2,000 for a short-term residential program, which helps those in the Lincoln Park neighborhood to find shelter.
- 43rd Ward Senior Bingo, \$300.
- St. Michael's Gala, 1633 N. Cleveland, \$220, for a gift certificate for an art session for their silent auction.
- The Association also awarded the Midwest Buddhist Temple, 435 W. Menomonee St., \$1,000 to aid Japanese earthquake and tsunami relief.