



**Old Town Triangle Association
Meeting of the Board of Directors
October 11, 2011
1763 N. North Park Avenue**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Phil Graff, president

Attendance:

Directors Present: Daniel Barson, Tom Bracken, Debbie Day, Phil Graff, Rick Hyer, John Knoche, Alan Lougee, David Pfendler, Jacqui Thams, Jeffrey Smith

Attending: Tom Lebig, Karen Pfendler, Stefani Turken, Pat Butler, reporter for Inside Publication

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

As the first order of business, the board approved the minutes of Sept. 13, and of a special meeting on Sept. 6 on a motion by Alan Lougee and seconded by Debbie Day.

After presenting the figures for the month of September, Treasurer John Knoche moved through the first round budget discussion with each board member explaining expenses for his/her committee in light of declining or flat revenues. After a beginning a line by line examination of the budget, the board will see where cuts could be made, and they asked for a column on the work sheet which would be color coded to show the percentage of variance, and Knoche said he would send it to each director for re-evaluation. Day said the board would not be able to get closer that night.

The board agreed they would have another examination of the budget, and a resubmission by Oct. 15, and agreement perhaps by conference call.

Among the budget items discussed were:

- Raising membership, Knoche submitted a proposal which was tabled for later discussion
- The proposal to spend \$150,000 over a two-year period on trees, was questioned. However, the board agreed to pay \$3,500 to Charlie Miller, Care of Trees, to do a survey that could be used as a guide to evaluating what is needed.

Tom Lebig questioned the cuts in Contributions, and suggested that the decision should involve the community, which may not want Contributions cut back because of the long-standing tradition of supporting neighborhood organizations.

Karen Pfendler questioned the use of an individual, under an established agreement, to empty two Triangle trash cans near the Crilly Court condos. She thought that Lake Shore, which is the new waste renewal company, could add them to their rounds.

Laurie Miller attended the meeting to discuss starting a Brownie troop at the Triangle Center, which would be for younger girls in kindergarten and first grade. Under discussion -- the availability of space, and the cost of renting the space. The board approved Miller's request, pending a mutually agreeable time to schedule.

The board members then went through their committee reports:

Art Fair Committee: Day said there would be some changes in the running of the art fair, including of reorganizing the fair structure. Having 24 chairs seems to be too many, and she would organize the committees around the work. She also plans to have a conference call with Emily Rose and Joan Goldstein to make sure she is on target Nov. 15. In December she would have a set of idea generation meetings submitted by topic which would focus discussion. In January, Day would invite the chairs in for their first meeting.

Bylaws: David Pfendler said they had their first meeting, and because there was another meeting in progress they went to a local home to continue the meeting. Among the topics they decided to tackle is the question of off-year elections, in addition to doing a line by line examination of the bylaws.

Capital Improvements: Alan Lougee discussed his first meeting as chair with Capital Improvements and said that the work with the installation of air conditioners will continue. Graff mentioned that two members of the committee had resigned: Martha Connelly and Phyllis Hall.

Continuing Education: Jaqui Thams said the staff and she met with the art school instructions in a discussion, which included raising the fees, and also helping to keep the center clean.

Contributions: Knoche said that the amount of contributions probably will be lowered this coming year.

Events Committee: Rick Hyer went through the list of possible events for the coming year at the Triangle. Talked about the success of the Shed and Shred Day and the not so successful line dancing.

HD/PZ: Dan Barson said that the committee had heard the development plans at 319 W. Concord, which had been vacant for four years. Neighbors object to extending the wall on the zero property line from front to back eliminating their garden light. The HD committee sent a letter to City Hall saying that they would hope the developer would have consideration for the neighbors and not block all the light exposure. During the discussion, Barson said he would examine the issue again, in light of the zoning variance which would make this allowable.

Miller, from the audience, suggested going through Ald. Michele Smith's office to get her support in opposing the variance.

Membership: Knoche said there are 229 iBOT members currently, and that we had approximately 25 new members. Hans and Birgitt Normolle, 1754 N. St. Michaels Court, won the lottery conducted in September for new membership. Members of the OTTA Board will prepare and serve dinner for four in their home. Knoche says he is considering having another lottery and this one to encourage members to solicit new members.

NIC: Tom Bracken said there was nothing to report, other than the survey of trees. The Care of Trees has given OTTA a contract for a survey of the trees at \$3,500, which was approved. The expenditure of \$75,000 yearly for two years, came under discussion again. Jeff Smith says that, while there are cash reserves for the project, he says fellow NIC Committee member, Linda Sarli, does not want to do a report, and just “spin her wheels” in light of the continuing questioning of the amount. Graff said that the association had always kept a two-year reserve in case the Art Fair had a bad year.

In other business, board members approved a resolution thanking Sue Apey, Martha Connelly and Phyllis Hall for their work on the Capital Improvements Committee, which include the now completed floors and other projects.

Graff also discussed the nominating committee, which Lougee is chairing. All board members had contributed names of people for the committee, which consists of five members. The nominating committee will report its recommendations no later than Nov. 1.

Finally, Lebig questioned the votes that were cast in the special election, and wanted to know the totals. Day explained that the vote counters and the election committee decided not to release the figures. She said that the two top candidates received the 2½ year terms, and the third largest total 1½ years. Day objected to characterizing the vote as secret.

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