**Minutes of the OTTA Board of Directors Meeting**

**February 8, 2022**

**Members Present:**

Dee DeCarlo, Carly Jenkins, Brad Neuman, Chris Nelson, Anne Giffels, Elaine Frei, Steve Nichols, Alan Lougee, Dave Montgomery, Marya Lucas

**Members Not Present:**

Zac Bleicher

Meeting called to order at 7:02PM. Members introduced.

Subsequent Board meetings announced: March 8, April 12, May 10, July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11, November 10, and December 13.

There will be a meeting March 1 to discuss all committees.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The December 2021 and January 2022 (annual meeting) minutes were sent to the Board for approval prior to the meeting. The minutes were approved with corrections.

**Treasurer’s Report by Brad Neuman:**

Brad provided an overview of the OTTA financials for fiscal year August 1 to July 31. As of January, the total bank accounts have $598,000 in cash with a positive cash flow of $8,000. As in prior years, cash increases January to June and declines July to December.

The summary statement of income shows that in the fiscal year to date, there’s a net loss of $9,000, versus a loss budgeted for $67,000. The OTTA is doing pretty well against the annual budget. The focus is on cash, rather than non-cash, items. The last column shows the estimate of how the OTTA is doing versus the budget and is color-coded with the unfavorable variances red and the favorable green. The OTTA is likely about $7,000 better than the budget, although $10,000 if excluding the Menomonee Club rent variance.

The cash flow statement shows the difference between cash and income. This year, there are some unusual quirks, *i.e.* where cash received in prior years is now considered income and certain expenses will be paid in advance (like the Directors and Officers’ 3-year insurance premium). One carrier agreed to insure going forward only, but we had to purchase a three-year policy for $34,665 from the existing carrier to cover any reporting of prior losses. Accounting expense will spread that premium over the next three years, but the cash was paid

in December.

The Board approved an employee change that was shared prior to the meeting.

**Accessibility & Other Committees by Dee DeCarlo:**

The Accessibility Committee aims to improve accessibility for people with disabilities throughout the Triangle. The committee will also focus on making the Art Fair more accessible.

Committees should meet once a month via Zoom or in person, preferably at the Triangle.

**Art Fair Report by Anne Giffels:**

Artists applied for the Art Fair, and some invites were sent with booth fees due by March 1. The Exhibitor’s subcommittee is working on the final roster of artists. For the first time, some booths will showcase emerging artists. More details to follow. For the second year, the Art Fair will include artists from Access Living, and the committee looks forward to seeing their work.

**HDPZ, as reported by Chris Nelson:**

The Fern Hill development at LaSalle and North Avenue continues to evolve. Zac and the HDPZ Committee will continue to follow the project and provide information when available. All board members are encouraged to visit the Fern Hill website for more information at: [www.engagefernhill.com](http://www.engagefernhill.com). You can also email: oldtown@fernhillcompany.com.

The zoning variance issue for the tavern license by Tapster was discussed.

An advisory position letter, written by Zac as chairman of HDPZ and on behalf of the OTTA, was sent to Alderman Brian Hopkins expressing the OTTA’s disfavor of the zoning change. The Board discussed when it should review HDPZ position letters and statements sent to public officials. This discussion was postponed until the HDPZ chair could attend the Board meeting.

There was a request to have the position letter sent to the Board for further review and consideration of voting protocol.

**Old Business:**

There was a new show at the Triangle and a nice write-up in Skyline. Some art was sold.

**New Business:**

Saturday, May 21, 2022, the Triangle will host a babysitter training program, sponsored by the Girl Scouts, for junior high girls.They will obtain Red Cross certification.

**Special Projects:**

Discussion was open as to special projects. Members were informally polled at the annual meeting about preferences for using OTTA funds towards plaques affixed to Triangle buildings, beautifying the outside of the Triangle building, developing a strategic plan for the OTTA, or installing a safety camera. The plaques and building beautification were most popular.

Plaques:

The Board discussed whether plaques could be gifted by Triangle residents and/or issued through a lottery system. This could present a fundraising opportunity. Plaques (with the OTTA logo, a description of the building, and 5 to 8 inches in size) would be affixed to landmarked buildings and other important buildings in the Triangle. Making more plaques at once decreases their cost. More work is needed on developing guidelines. Zac will spearhead this project.

Building Beautification:

A budget needs to be developed to determine the cost of beautifying the outside of the Triangle building. Elaine will spearhead this project.

Safety Camera:

The OTTA should work with representatives and civic organizations to obtain funds for cameras.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.





