

OTW Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Antoinette Powell, Jon Corelis, Linda Muldoon, Brian DeGroot, Donald Elston (guest), Hugh Bayer, Peggy Samsa

Regrets: Keith Powell, Paula Sosalla, Keith Bilyeu, Chris Vander Wielen

Oct 7, 2015

1. Review last meetings notes – 08-17-15

No comments on minutes - post

Committee Reports – (20 min)

a. Newsletter – Fall

Newsletter will be done next week: park, Haunted Hearthstone, Linda's story (Conkey homes,) African Americans in the neighborhood, County expansion plans and Jackman bridge. Donald will continue to pay for half of the expenses: printing and labeling. Hand distribution. Donald suggested making the font for the website and Facebook page bigger.

► Action: Donald will send Antoinette new art - same size

b. Face Book - make font bigger in newsletter. Keith, Hugh and Donald met about FB. Tried to contact the other site owner couldn't find him/her but the site disappeared anyway. Keith and Donald agreed to continue making posts. Antoinette is also posting. Anything relevant to the neighborhood or interesting can be posted. The settings allow anyone to post. An event was created for the picnic and could have influenced attendance.

2. Old Business – (40 min)

a. Picnic – Review

Great turnout. Maybe Facebook helped. Signs and mailed reminders helped. Donald picked up the signs and took them to Patti's. Hugh has them now. Linda said we should do everything we did this year next year. Linda: "Yellow jackets down, attendance up." Antoinette: Hearthstone people were thrilled that they were invited and they had a good time.

Brian - anyone else we should be inviting? Outside the neighborhood? Everyone was covered as far as we know.

Donald - invite merchants, business people to the picnic for possible donations, newsletter support

b. Analytics to Antoinette to count hits on the home page.

Antoinette said she can't get to the analytics. Hugh can look at them and they are being tracked.

► Action: Hugh will get access for Antoinette [post-meeting: Hugh and Antoinette discovered the problem and now she had access]

c. Pioneer Park – Walking Tour box - cost can someone build it – Brian

Patti said she would look into it. Brian said we looked at Little Libraries but they're too expensive. Peggy said she has the materials and has to figure out waterproofing. Brian said it has to be made of cedar so it won't rot. Brian said size-wise it should be the size of a mailbox on a free-standing 4 x 4 post off the sidewalk. The city said they would drop the post in.

Peggy said it could be a mailbox. Brian - spring-loaded door. Brian - deter people from stealing, tossing them around. Brian - QR code. Antoinette and Donald: QR codes are free to generate and can be made any size. Brian: winter is a good opportunity to pull this together.

► Action: Brian will talk to Patti about it

► Action: Peggy will think about a design

d. Pioneer Park – donations of bench, trees etc.

Torpedoed the trash receptacle. Linda - make them a dark color. Antoinette said Tom Flick suggested a tree. The Board decided not to pursue the tree. Antoinette said Tom knows the marble people are to deliver and drop the bench. Antoinette said there was a water truck out there taking care of the new plantings.

► Action: Hugh will find out if we paid the marble people anything [post-meeting: the OTW did pay for bench-related services.]

3. City Report – Patti – (5-15 min) - skipped

4. New Business – (10 min)

Jon mentioned the Prospect Oneida intersection. The bike lane funnels the bikes near the curb, then between 2 lanes of traffic. Brian said there were two accidents recently involving vehicles, no bikes.

► Action: Linda will ask Gwen Sargent about what bike people think.

Brian: Patti needs to hear this. Linda: Facebook, what do people think about that intersection? Antoinette suggested instead of asking what people think, post the name of a person in the city to contact: Eric Lom traffic planner.

► Action: Jon will contact Fox Valley Cycling (name?) people and ask what they think and send a note to Patti. [post-meeting: Jon received a detailed response from Patti]

Linda would like to have us invite Bill Siebers to a meeting (he's the other downtown neighborhood Alderperson.) It would be good for us to get to know him and vice versa.

Brian suggested the content of the meeting be of interest to him. Brian is concerned about our Board attendance at this kind of meeting. Brian: we want a definite positive discussion. Linda: our vision, neighborhood and how we connect to the river.

Brian wants some reasons he should be here and topics of discussion. Antoinette said he should know ahead of time. Brian said the Board does not agree on everything that has to do with the neighborhood. Donald suggested going through the agenda ahead of time to make sure everyone is in agreement. A discussion ensued. Brian asked if there is a record of how Alderpersons vote. Donald suggested asking Siebers himself.

► Action: Put this on the agenda for the next meeting. Board members need to come up with topics of discussion before then.

Linda - Convention and Visitors Bureau contacted Antoinette about wanted 2 bus tours of the neighborhood. Linda gave the 2 bus tours because Antoinette was out of town. They had walking tour brochures. Antoinette thanked her for doing that.

Linda - Mike Gage's (connected with Gloudemans and Gage) father is 92 and Linda wants to do an oral history.

► Action: Linda will schedule.

5. Treasurer's Report – (2 min)

Hugh gave the treasurer's report.

6. New Items for Website Calendar – (2 min)

Hearthstone events are on the calendar. Brian asked if we are doing Light Up the Fox events. Antoinette said LUTF is dissolving.

7. Next Meeting – (2 min)

Next meeting: Powell's house, November 22, 7 p.m.