

OTW Board Meeting Minutes, Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015

Present: Brian DeGroot, Antoinette Powell, Hugh Bayer, Peggy Samsa, Jon Corelis, Donald Elston, Patti Coenen, Linda Muldoon, Keith P. (later)

Regrets: Paula Sosalla, Chris Vanderwielen, Keith Bilyeu, Keith Powell

Meeting began at 7:06 p.m.

1. Review last meetings notes – 10-07-15

Corrections additions taken care of via email after the meeting. Ready to post minutes minus the treasurer numbers.

2. Committee Reports – (20 min)

a. New Letter – Winter, content, date etc.

Antoinette passed financials for newsletter to Brian, Donald and Hugh. Donald offered to pay for half of printing. He will settle up with Hugh.

Anything pressing, date-wise for Winter newsletter, Brian asked? Antoinette said nothing is pressing. Mid-late January for Winter newsletter.

Brian asked Donald if he's gotten any response from his ad. He said no but he enjoys delivering the newsletter and talking with people.

Brian asked if we should follow the same pattern with newsletter, finances and distribution. Antoinette and Donald said yes.

Brian asked if there is anything else to highlight in next newsletter. Linda said more history on bridge, Conkeys, African Americans. Linda said we should summarize active committees. Brian said there are committees on distribution box for walking tour, neighborhood watch idea, welcoming newcomers (put together packet, Linda said some people were doing it for a while), Donald said when he's knocking on doors about 25% answer the door, a lot are new and renting, don't know it's historic.

Brian asked if the renters the target for the newsletter or the new homeowners?

Patti said the city doesn't keep an easily accessible record of how many units are owner occupied and rental units are in the neighborhood.

Brian said we are doing everything we can to publicize the neighborhood: newsletter, website, FB

b. Facebook

Antoinette said anyone who joins the group can post

Patti took pictures to post but hasn't yet

Donald asked if we are accomplishing the goals we set. Do we need to do more to encourage conversations?

Brian remarked he's not sure how to be more interactive

Antoinette suggested putting something in newsletter encouraging people to join group and post and give examples: gardening, etc.

Donald asked if we want to post something specifically to encourage conversation

Linda asked people what would make them read the newsletter or not. Some liked reading it online some liked paper copy.

Antoinette said that's why we have both.

Linda asked if we can have something that would make people respond, like a scavenger hunt and win a prize.

Brian liked the idea of scavenger hunt.

Antoinette asked who would decide the prize, take care of entries, distribute the prize

Brian said to keep it simple, post something, have people post an answer, attention grabbers, get responses. We discussed something like giving gift certificates at the picnic and decided not to.

Donald said things that are fun don't necessarily have to have a prize. Post a photo of your house, recipe, etc. Everyone should get involved.

Brian suggested making it a goal that everyone on the Board post something on FB. He admitted he's not a follower

Linda asked if the Board reads the newsletter.

3. Old Business – (40 min)

- a. Pioneer Park – Walking Tour box – What’s the cost? Can someone build it? – Brian & Patti

Donald sent Brian a photo. Brian and Patti had a conversation about the box.

► Action: Patti will contact the person she knows and Brian will put a drawing together.

Patti said we don’t need anything very big

Brian suggested a magnet or spring door

Brian reminded the Board that Peggy said she would find out about a design.

Peggy said she has some cedar.

► Action: Brian will do follow up with Dan Kuen, a machinist

- b. Discuss/Explore Bill Siebers meeting.

Bill Siebers is Alderperson from downtown area

- i. Things we need to identify to proceed with inviting Bill to a meeting

- 1. Purpose – what are we looking to accomplish?

Linda said it would be good for him to know who we are and for us to get to know him. Introduce ourselves. Give him back copies of the newsletters. He was the Mayor’s assistant at one time.

Brian said there are four Alderpersons who represent downtown: Joe Martin, Polly (resigning), Bill Siebers and Patti.

Patti asked if it is a part of the mission of the OTW to lobby

Brian said we are not a political group, it’s not legal or right. Go back to introducing ourselves.

Antoinette suggested there has to be a concrete reason for him to be invited to a meeting outside his district

Brian said the benefit for us is building a relationship

Donald agreed that building a relationship is a benefit. He asked Patti what her reaction would be if someone from another district asked her to go to a meeting.

Patti said she'd want to know what it was about. There are too many meetings. She spoke to a lot of people about Erb Park because it affects the entire city.

Brian was not sure of the Alderperson would benefit from a meeting. We could benefit from good PR. Why should he come to us?

Linda said other Alderpersons have come to meetings.

Hugh reminded the Board that there was action on the table, there was a purpose to the meeting

Patti said there was a resolution coming up

Brian said we've all had discussions with the Alders, one on one, at various times

Antoinette suggested that we table this until there's a reason to meet.

Donald: maybe it's as simple as looking for an opportunity.

Brian asked if he should do more politicking.

Linda said people in the past have asked whom to contact in the OTW

Brian suggested he could introduce himself to Bill

Jon said we should offer to send him the newsletter and Board meeting minutes

► Action: Brian will contact Bill about receiving newsletter

Donald asked to what extent do happenings in the OTW effect the neighborhood, Jones Park and the exposition center for example.

Brian said these are occasions where people in the neighborhood do make a difference but we can't speak for the neighborhood

Linda replied unless the neighborhood is threatened. All agreed.

Jon wants to communicate quality of life issues

Linda remembered Mike Thomas contacted people in the group about talking to the County. It was an informational meeting. We were there to find out what their space plans were.

Brian said as individuals, fine, but not representing the organization.

2. topics of meeting - tabled

4. City Report – Patti – (5-15 min)

a. Updates on city budget items

There is a trestle struggle going on regarding the ownership of the trestle for the pedestrian trail

Apartments on the Foremost site fell through. Now they're looking at a retirement situation. These are different developers.

b. Progress on bridge construction

Patti said they ran into issues with the railings – burrs on the top. Finishing on Jackman is taking place. Walkway will go in next spring - it's in the budget

c. Anything else?

Exhibition center – last vote on taxes is soon. Kimberley is the municipality with the last meeting to vote on room tax.

5. New Business – (15 min)

Jon reported the bunny rabbit has found a home.

Brian reported Bob the Cat is doing well.

a. Neighborhood watch program – interest?

Jon asked that this be put on agenda for next time. It's appropriate for the group to discuss it.

Peggy said a captain is needed for each block

Hugh asked if something would be different now

Brian asked if we should we select a certain area instead of the whole neighborhood

Peggy said that can be done

Brian asked who wants to spearhead this, if anyone

Donald asked if we need to be in a formal program to access crime information, for example

b. Donations to memorial funds

Brian said last year he purchased a tree for Ken Sager and used OTW's name.

Linda suggested a memorial or donations for Roy Baumruk because his home is our logo and he held out when the county was purchasing property

Patti asked how to pick and choose who to memorialize

Jon said we don't have a consensus on if we should do this

Brian asked if we can use the OTW name if someone wants to personally donate
He suggested writing kind words in the newsletter

Antoinette said we did that with Ken Sager

Keith P. suggested putting a note on the website or FB page on where to donate

► Action: Antoinette will put something about donations on the website, FB and the newsletter

c. County representatives

Brian asked if we should invite Katrin Patience to the meetings

Keith P. said now we're hearing County news second or third hand

Brian asked if it would be worth her while to come to the meetings

Keith P. replied that would be up to her

► Action: Brian will invite Katrin to the meetings

Hugh suggested asking her send any information she may have if she can't attend

► Action: Brian will send email to administrative assistant to be put on email list for notices of Property Committee agenda

d. Chris Vanderwielen has resigned. She was Vice President.

6. Treasurer's Report given
7. New Items for Website Calendar – (2 min)
Christmas parade and parking
Hearthstone Victorian Christmas is already up
8. Next Meeting – (2 min)
January 17, 2016, 7 p.m., Brian's house