

Urban Neighbors Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 2, 2008

Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Skirvin Hilton, 1 Park Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Present: Jeff Bezdek, Mark Gibbs, Paige Gregory, Brian Hammond, Steven Newlon, Brett Price, David Remy, Holly Shelton

Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Brett Price, UN President.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 5, 2008 UN Board Meeting were unanimously approved.

III. Financial Report

Brian Hammond distributed a monthly financial report for August 2008. He noted that the expected major transactions totaling \$10,500 for the bike rack project had gone through. At the end of August the estimated bank balance was \$1,464.40 and there was \$991.33 in the PayPal account. Brian Hammond said he planned to start developing an Operating Budget for 2009. Mark Gibbs noted that this would be needed for approval by the membership by the end of the current Financial Year. A motion was unanimously *approved to purchase generic UN business cards for Board Members.*

IV. Membership Committee Report

Mark Gibbs reported current membership numbers of 64 Resident, 37 Associate and 24 Business members and noted that the number of new members per month remains very low. The general email list stands now at 780. Jim Cowan of the Bricktown Association is working on a UN member discount card. This will greatly help with recruiting new members towards the end of the membership year and would be part of the bullet points Bose' Akadiri, the Membership Committee chair, will use when recruiting new members. Bose' Adadiri will continue to write "Spotlight on" articles for the web and the email newsletter. However, the issue of benefits for business members versus sponsorship was revisited again and Paige Gregory said this is something the Marketing Committee needs to resolve.

V. Social Committee Report

Holly Shelton announced that September Social will be at Gaijin Sushi on September 11 and that all the restaurant will be given over to Urban Neighbors. The October Social will be at The Melting Pot and the November Social at the Renaissance. There will be a \$35 wine dinner at Mickey Mantle's on September 24. Ideas for the Christmas Social in December were discussed such as holding it at Red Pin.

VI. Marketing Committee Report

Paige Gregory reported that there has been good feedback on the UN email newsletter now that it has more substantive content. The early September edition will go out a day early, i.e., on Tuesday, September 9, in advance of the *Rack Up Downtown!* media launch on September 10. Element Fusion is holding a competition for a nonprofit to win a free website redesign. Developing an RSS feed was suggested as a way of providing "breaking news" to subscribers who have proactively chosen to receive such information outside the two newsletters per month cycle.

VII. Focus Group Reports

Brian Hammond distributed a report on the activities and progress of the Safety & Health, Downtown Transportation and Quiet Zone (ex-“Train Noise”) Focus Groups and Subcommittees. He drew attention to the important upcoming Metro Transit workshop for the City Council at the Oklahoma City Zoo on Tuesday, September 16. Brian Hammond also briefly reported on the Urban Neighbors Fantasy Football league. He also mentioned the Teachers Warehouse initiative that Kirk Humphreys had promoted at that day’s Rotary meeting and the Board then discussed the merits of developing UN community service projects.

VIII. *Rack Up Downtown!* & Downtown Strategic Initiative Reports

Mark Gibbs updated the Board on the various *Rack Up Downtown!* launch events coming up in the next month. He noted that he had been receiving good feedback and suggestions for the Downtown Strategic Initiative Walkability & Bikeability subcommittee.

IX. UN Input on New Park Solicited by Larry Nichols

The Board unanimously ***approved conducting a UN membership survey (using Survey Monkey) about programming for the Myriad Gardens and the proposed park outside the Devon tower.*** Steven Newlon will send out a draft of the cover letter that will accompany the results for the Board to review. Having laptops set up at the September Social for people to complete the survey on the spot was discussed.

X. UN Forum for Ward 6 Candidates

The Board unanimously ***approved the continuance of planning, led by Jeff Bezdek, for a joint UN sponsorship with Neighborhood Alliance of a Ward 6 Candidate Forum.***

XI. New Business

Brett Price discussed some of the problems that can arise when talking with the media. The need for at least three Board members to review all press releases as stressed. Mark Gibbs said he had not yet secured a location for the next Board meeting and Brett Price said he inquire with Steve Mason of Cardinal Engineering. Brian Hammond asked Paige Gregory about the status of the proposed strategic planning retreat with Georgie Rasco of Neighborhood Alliance; a general meeting of the membership to solicit views and ideas is needed first.

XII. Announcements

None.

XIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Brett Price at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Mark Gibbs, Secretary