

Urban Neighbors Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Board Room, 2nd Floor, Skirvin Hotel

Present: Jeff Bezdek, Andy Burnett, Mark Gibbs, Paige Gregory, Brian Hammond, Steven Newlon, Brett Price, David Remy, Robert Robles, and Holly Shelton.

Guests: Georgie Rasco of Neighborhood Alliance of Central Oklahoma .

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Jeff Bezdek, Interim Board President.

Paige Gregory reported on the preparations herself and Jeff Bezdek had made for the upcoming October Social on Thursday, October 11th.

Paige Gregory advised that the November Social location would be the Bricktown Brewery. The December location has yet to be determined, and may be problematic at this time of year. It had been suggested to hold a joint party with the OKC Chapter of the Urban Land Institute, but David Remy said he will just notify their membership. Paige suggested the Clubhouse at the Deep Deuce Apartments and Jeff said he would speak to the new owner about this.

Jeff Bezdek brought up the upcoming elections for the vacant Ward 7 Councilperson seat. He suggested hosting a candidates' debate but the consensus of the board was that such a high-profile event in the ward at this stage was not preferable. However, it was agreed that several UN representatives should attend any such event and ask well-structured questions.

Jeff Bezdek stated that we need a strong subject for the November Social which would be a good draw. This will be the last "business" Social event of the year and needs to be arranged within the next week so it can be announced at the October Social. Discussion was given to inviting Lanc Gross, Pedestrian and Bicycle Coordinator, City of OKC Planning Department, but Mark Gibbs suggested this be deferred until nearer the time that the Rack-Up Downtown bike racks were installed.

Jeff Bezdek mentioned that Mayor Cornett has agreed to speak at the April 2008 Social about MAPS 3, i.e., after the upcoming City Bond Issue vote in December. The latter topic was discussed, including inviting someone from the City to speak at the November meeting, ideally about specific benefits for downtown. Jeff Bezdek said he would look to invite Jim Couch, City Manager.

Paige Gregory distributed a list of downtown apartment complexes and ensured that arrangements were in place to distribute fliers for the October Social.

Elections were administered by Georgie Rasco. The results were President: Brett Price; Vice-President: Paige Gregory; Secretary: Mark Gibbs; and Treasurer: Robert Robles.

Georgie Rasco distributed handouts relating to the duties of Officers and Board Members, and discussed Board responsibilities (below). She asked the Board to decide on meeting norms which were set as:

agenda to be published two days before a meeting, cell phones to be set to vibrate and draft minutes to be published one week before the next meeting.

Georgie Rasco mentioned that relationships with Condo/Residents Associations could become an issue in the future and that we would need to be aware of this and try to stay non-partisan. She concluded by mentioning the upcoming Neighbor Alliance Good Neighbor Awards Banquet.

The issue of cash flow was raised. Events, though very successful, have been paid for so far by membership dues, which to some extent is self-defeating. Jeff Bezdek outlined a revenue-sharing/sponsorship scheme used for the Bricktown Association's website, and suggested such a possibility might be applicable to the UN website. Paige Gregory observed that further expansion to the UN website would not be free, so returning to the issue of needing to obtain additional income sources.

Setting the monthly social events at one time for all of 2008 was suggested, but the general opinion of the Board was that this might best be done on quarterly basis.

Brett Price suggested an informal "get to know each other" Board meeting in the near future and promised to send out an email.

Brett Price gave permission to Brian Hammond to sign the Bike Rack project contract with the City of OKC on behalf of Urban Neighbors, along with Mark Gibbs, the UN Secretary.

Brett Price said he would send out an email to organize an Executive Committee meeting.

The meeting ended at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Mark Gibbs, Secretary

Neighborhood Association Board Responsibilities

Georgie Rasco

1) Always have a united front

Once a decision is made by the board it must be supported by all members after the meeting.

2) Be prepared and organized

Distribute previous meeting minutes and the agenda in sufficient time ahead of a meeting.

Ensure that meetings start and end on time.

3) Do not be cliquish

Make new members feel welcome.

Do not allow a “them and us” mentality.

4) Do not take on the work of all committees

The Board’s primary job is to motivate and enthuse the membership, and to maintain the momentum of the association.

5) Empower your committees and members but keep tabs

Set clear goals and guidelines, e.g., disbursement limits and policies.