

Urban Neighbors Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 2, 2008

The Sequoyah Room, Downtown Library, 300 Park Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73102

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

Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM by Brett Price, UN President.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November 6, 2008 UN Board Meeting were approved.

III. Financial Report

Mark Gibbs presented a financial report for November 2008. He noted that a \$250 Plaza Level membership had been received from Midtown Renaissance and asked what benefits would be received at this level. Brett Price said he would contact Mickey Clagg. He then asked Paige Gregory to work with Bose' Akadiri to finalize what the benefits would be at each membership level and to let him know what the outcome of their discussions was in the next seven days. The Board **unanimously approved the Treasurer using a debit card for the UN bank account**. This card would need to be handled carefully and should remain with the Treasurer. After discussion the Board **voted 5 to 1 to approve the expenditure of \$300 for OKC Chamber of Commerce membership**.

IV. Election of Treasurer

Brett Price announced that Brian Hammond had resigned as UN Treasurer for multiple reasons and that some of the issues that arose will be taken care of in the near term. Given the closeness of the AGM, **Brett Price and Paige Gregory would split the Treasurer duties until the upcoming Board elections which was unanimously approved by the Board**. Assistance with the audit process was offered by David Remy and Holly Shelton.

V. Membership Report

Mark Gibbs reported on the current membership numbers. He reminded the Board about the upcoming Block Party membership recruitment event being organized by Bose' Akadiri on Friday, December 5, 2008. Agenda Item **IX** was then handled at this point. Mark Gibbs gave the background as to why membership was currently a fixed one-year term in the By-Laws. After discussion the Board **voted to request that Mark Gibbs draft a By-Law amendment to move to a rolling one-year term for membership**. Moving the process forward for hiring an Administrative Assistant was discussed; prospective candidates would be invited to provide their estimates for a likely scope of work while simultaneously Mark Gibbs will draft a list of likely duties.

VI. Social Report

Holly Shelton talked about the December Social at Tapwerks on Thursday, December 11, 2008 and there was discussion about a possible toy drive. The February Social will be held early, on February 5, 2009, at the Red Dirt Emporium in conjunction with a book signing by Steve Lackmeyer in order to avoid a clash with the Chocolate Decadence event on February 12, 2009. There was discussion about whether the AGM, should be held as a separate event and Mark Gibbs and Holly Shelton will coordinate on checking options. Holly Shelton distributed general UN collateral and materials for the upcoming Block Party which had been

produced at no charge by Quick Print and for which the Board was very appreciative of. The January Social was set up for Untitled [ArtSpace] and it was suggested that Meg Salyer, the new Ward 6 Councilperson, be invited.

VII. Marketing Report

Paige Gregory reported that Jason Blakenship was now no longer able to assist with developing a UN flyer and that she would be looking to move this project in a new direction. Following the recent meeting of UN representatives with the consultants working on the new downtown BID, there will be an online survey for residents listed in the next newsletter. Mark Gibbs mentioned the Downtown Library survey that had been discussed at the recent UN Business Meeting and Brett Price promised to follow up with Darlene Browers of the Downtown Library on this. Paige Gregory reported on the recent meeting she attended with Alison Oshel of the Greater Chamber Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce and Homeland regarding a possible new Homeland store in the Downtown area. Jeff Bezdek reported that a journalist was interested in the Train Noise/Quiet Zone issue. Brett Price asked that a position paper be developed and reviewed before speaking with the media on this issue.

VIII. South of St Anthony's (SOSA) Neighborhood

Steven Newlon reported on developments in this area where a new neighborhood association might form within the current UN boundaries. Mark Gibbs relayed options from Georgie Rasco of Neighborhood Alliance which were essentially to redefine the UN boundaries to exclude the potential new neighborhood association, or to maintain the present boundaries but to recognize SOSA resident's primacy over specific issues relating to their area. A long and extensive discussion ensued including "ambassador" and/or federal relationships between the UN and different downtown districts and/or business associations. This is a topic that has always been an issue as the UN has developed, especially given the atypically large area and diversity that the UN covers. The general sense of the Board was that this development was inevitable and would likely be the first of many such situations as further districts grew and organized. Managing this "case study" process in a beneficial manner for both groups was seen as a priority. The question of how the UN could add value for the new neighborhood, such as through possible UN financial support such as for logo creation, arose and Steven Newlon was asked to approach the SOSA group to discuss possible options.

IX. Proposed Changes to UN By-Laws on Membership
Handled under Agenda Item V.

X. New Business
None.

XI. Announcements
Mark Gibbs reminded the Board about opportunities for UN members to participate in the next phase of the Downtown Strategic Initiative process.

XII. Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned by Brett Price at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Mark Gibbs, Secretary