

Urban Neighbors Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Bricktown Police Station, 219 E Main Street, Bricktown, Oklahoma City, OK 73104

Present: Jeff Bezdek, Andy Burnett, Brian Engel, Mark Gibbs, Paige Gregory, Brian Hammond, Steven Newlon, Brett Price, Robert Robles (arrived late), David Remy

Absent: Holly Shelton

Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by Brett Price, UN President.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 4, 2008 UN Board Meeting were unanimously approved.

III. Mayor's Visit

Various arrangements for the upcoming Mayoral visit to the April 10, 2008 UN Social Meeting at the Skirvin were discussed and Holly Shelton's work was acknowledged and greatly appreciated. As regards signage needs, purchasing a self-standing "roll-up" sign was deferred for now. Jeff Bezdek and Paige Gregory would coordinate getting a suitable UN logo on foam core board for the podium. Brett Price, who deals frequently with Fast Signs, said he would obtain costs for a universal banner that could be used at multiple events.

A wide-ranging discussion then ensued about Jeff Bezdek's proposal to award "Ambassadorships" to both organizations and individuals. Developing relationships and a dialog with related organizations such as Automobile Alley and Midtown was seen as a way of addressing issues of common interest and for the UN to move forward quickly on Downtown issues in general. An important distinction was made between inviting a representative from each of these organizations to act as a liaison with the UN, versus asking each (primarily business-focused) organization to be responsible for resident concerns in their district under the umbrella of the UN. The general opinion of the Board was while the UN may ultimately evolve to a more federal type organization (with "sub-neighborhood organizations) as each district grows, for now it was important not to dilute the UN's constituency while the UN was still new.

As regards individuals who should be recognized for their efforts to assist the UN and Downtown in general, though there were already worthy individuals beyond the Mayor, it was felt that only one or two such awards per year should be given so as to avoid diluting the value of the award. Unanimously, the Board *approved presenting an Honorary UN Ambassador ship award to the Mayor and expenditures necessary to obtain an award plaque and additional sound equipment for the April 10, 2008 Social Meeting.*

III. Membership Committee Report

Brian Hammond presented a list of proposed questions for the Mayor compiled from phone calls to the membership, which the Board then systematically prioritized after extensive discussions. Brian Engel expressed concern about whether the Mayor should see the questions in advance. Jeff Bezdek said that the Mayor's office had indicated they did not see the questions in advance and that he would "roll with the punches." However, Brett Price asked that they be sent an email to check on this. The Board voted unanimously to *give*

Steven Newlon the authority to compile the final list of questions including any they may subsequently come in from members before the meeting.

IV. PR, Marketing and Website Update

Paige Gregory reported that some people have stepped forward to assist with a marketing committee which will be working on media, website, social websites, ad packages and sales. She hoped to have our first meeting in the next week or so. The Board unanimously ***approved using free event calendar information from Wingo.com.*** A presentation on this service had been given to the Executive Committee at its meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2008 by an OPUBCO representative. Paige Gregory has the code to install Wingo on the UN website but will probably get some help from OPUBCO programmers with Cascading Style Sheets (CSS).

III. Treasurer's Report

Robert Robles thanked Paige Gregory and Steven Newlon for their efforts in implementing membership fee payments through PayPal. He then presented a written report which showed an estimated bank balance of \$1,383.36 at March 29, 2008. Robert Robles then said that he would be obtaining various signatures at the end of the meeting for a letter to the bank to remove the signatories from the account who were not current Board Officers. He also invited anybody to remain after the meeting who needed a check for expenses. The Board voted unanimously to approve ***the opening of second UN bank account to be used only for the Rack Up Downtown! bike rack project with the Executive Committee as authorized signatories.***

IV. Social Committee Report

Not given as Holly Shelton was not present. There will be a meeting of the Social Committee at the 1492 restaurant at 6 PM on Tuesday, April 8, 2008. Brett Price reported on the UN evening at the Blazers on March 21, 2008 and a Yawd Dawgz event was envisaged for the April informal UN "outing."

VIII. New Business

The upcoming DOKC Downtown Living Tour was discussed. The UN will be paid \$1,000 for providing tour guides on the buses and at each location. Brett Price said he was hoping to provide T-Shirts for the UN volunteers and to organize some socialization afterwards, and that he would be coordinating the recruitment and organization of volunteers. Steven Newlon reported that he planned to have professional name badges for Board Members for the March Social.

IX. Announcements

Brett Price announced that there would be an informal Executive Committee meeting in two week's time.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Brett Price at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Mark Gibbs, Secretary