

Urban Neighbors Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 1, 2008

OKCCVB Offices, 189 Sheridan, Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Present: Jeff Bezdek, Brian Hammond, Mark Gibbs, Paige Gregory, Brett Price, Robert Robles, David Remy, Holly Shelton
Absent: Andy Burnett, Brian Engel, Steven Newlon
Other UN
Members: Bose' Akadiri, Deemah Ramadan

Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by Brett Price, UN President.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 3, 2008 UN Board Meeting were unanimously approved.

III. Treasurer's Report

Robert Robles discussed the organization's current expenditures and revenues. Withdrawals from the UN PayPal are currently being blocked until PayPal receives more information about the organization to comply with current banking regulations.

IV. Membership Committee Report

Mark Gibbs reported that there are currently 64 Resident, 32 Associate and 20 Business members. A better conversion rate is needed, especially for key people who have been involved with the UN but not yet joined. Bounced email addresses need to be fixed and Paige Gregory encouraged working with Steven Newlon on such addresses for media contacts. Mark Gibbs then yielded to Bose' Akadiri, the new Membership Coordinator, but noted that there is still a need for help with backend administration. Bose' Akadiri is working on a monthly "Spotlight on" business members for the newsletter. She suggested developing a small pamphlet about the UN to distribute to apartment complexes and in welcome packets for new owners and Paige Gregory said they could work together on this. There then followed a general discussion about the UN membership categories and their voting status, as well as recruiting new members and sponsors. Deemah Ramadan complimented the Board for their hard work but noted there was a perception among members that there was nothing else to the UN beyond Socials. She said there were many people who wanted to get involved in the UN but did not know how. Brett Price apologized for not making announcements at the June Social which had been a notably informal environment. The issue of how much business to include at Social meetings was revisited.

V. Social Committee Report

The recent cocktail cruise on the Bricktown Canal had been a success and a similar social event, a wine dinner at Mickey Mantle's, was being planned for September. Holly Shelton announced that the next UN Social will be at the Bricktown Ballpark on July 10, where Captain Patrick Stewart of the Bricktown Police Station would be the guest speaker. The newly opened Iguana restaurant are very interested in hosting the August Social and future locations being considered included McNellies Pub (September) and Untitled[ArtSpace] (October). Bose' Akadiri requested and it was unanimously approved by the Board that *the start time of*

the Socials be pushed back to 5:30 PM when more people are able to attend. Jeff Bezdek said that hosts of UN Socials should now be expected to be members but Holly Shelton replied she always encouraged hosts to join and that she preferred to handle this carefully on a case-by-case basis.

VI. Marketing & Publicity Committee Report

Paige Gregory reported that the Marketing Committee had not met recently since all other members had had to step down. She is continuing to produce the bimonthly UN newsletters. She mentioned that Griffin Communications (News9) had presented to the Bricktown Association about handling all its marketing and advertising to fully capture that organization's value, and that such a venture may be possible for the UN. Bose' Akadiri will work on the problems with the UN page on Facebook. Mark Gibbs proposed that readily available UN content such as news stories, Board minutes and previous newsletters be posted, plus a page on volunteer opportunities, now that the UN is paying for additional pages on the site. Jeff Bezdek stated that the UN logo must appear on the website given how much we had paid for it and Deemah Ramadan said she would find expertise within the UN to help with this. Paige Gregory encouraged people to send her content which she would post.

VII. Focus Group Reports

Brian Hammond summarized the activities and progress of the various Focus Groups. The Train Noise Focus Group expects to meet shortly with City of OKC Finance staff. A potential Downtown safety class in association with the Downtown College Consortium was under development. The Downtown Transportation Focus Group had developed plans for a new "Green" Trolley Line to better serve Downtown residents and workers and comments on the proposed route would be solicited at the upcoming Social. Brian Hammond also proposed determining if there would be interested from the membership in a fantasy football fundraising league. Brian Hammond requested that Green (covering environmental and transportation) and Health & Safety be established as standing UN committees and where possible that the chairs not be Board members in order to encourage membership involvement and leadership. However, he was invited to come back with specific proposals for the next Board meeting.

VIII. Rack Up Downtown! Report

Mark Gibbs reported that the design and locations for the standard racks had been approved and that the manufacturing order was about to be placed. Presentations are to be made to the Bricktown Urban Design Committee (July 9) and the Downtown Design Review Committee on July 17 where support by UN members attending would be helpful.

IX. National Night Out Events, Good Neighbor Awards

Mark Gibbs distributed the Neighborhood Alliance National Night Out planning packet. Attendance at the photo with the Mayor on the steps of City Hall on Tuesday, July 29 was encouraged but it was felt that there was probably not enough time to organize a UN event for NNO itself on August 5. Mark Gibbs also distributed nomination forms for the Neighborhood Alliance Good Neighbor Awards and suggest making a nomination for best Corporate Neighbor to recognize significant contribution to the rebirth of Downtown. Other categories, such as best Neighborhood Project, were probably too early at this stage in the UN's growth. A specific individual was identified for which Brett Price would work on drafting a nomination.

X. New Business

None.

XI. Announcements

Brett Price confirmed that Andrew Burnett was not moving out of the neighborhood and that he Brian Engel has not confirmed whether he is resigning from the Board.

XII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Brett Price at 7:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Mark Gibbs, Secretary