

HPNA Board Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2011

Facilitator: Mike Mahoney
Timekeeper: Lori Bryce
Note-taker: Mary

Standard Reports

Treasurer Report

- Balances: Checking - \$3,948; Saving - \$2,475
- Outstanding reimbursements for marathon will be minimal
- Recent deposits have been related to membership & Buzz advertising (\$1,000 from Pinnacle still expected)
- With the amount of income we're generating, we need to think about how to handle paying taxes; need to get accounting advise on this; Mary R.'s brother-in-law is an accountant, she's willing to ask him, will get Lori his contact info
- We need to order new checks; we will use the P.O. Box address
- We will begin reimbursing mileage for significant distance (e.g. Matt's drive to Webster for Buzz printing); Lori will draft a reimbursement form and policy for review

Membership

- Since the last meeting, \$90 in supporting memberships have been received
- Tshirts were ordered in black; asked DePaul to see natural color tshirts for future reference

Board Business

Communication plan

- Resignations from Jason and Joe, clearly a result of the cumbersome Buzz process (e.g. 16 pages, business ads, editing)
- BUZZ:
- Discussion of how to simplify Buzz process; it's turned into a "monster"; Meghan gave history of its simple beginning; need to get back to that
 - Mike's proposal for new process – 8 pages, template format, Buzz Committee decides on content, one person edits, no inserts and limited ad space (after fulfilling current commitments)
 - Mike is willing to coordinate the next issue if we follow this simpler process
 - We should recruit more help with stuffing and bundling; Mary R. can inquire about Lifetime Assistance volunteers
- COMM COORD:
- Mary suggested recruiting Mahreen and ask her to focus mainly on the email blast to start until she gets her feet wet and may be able to take on more things; all agreed we should approach her; Mary will contact
- WEBSITE:
- Matt willing to continue to update for now; overhaul project will be put on hold
- ONLINE (Blog & FB):

--Everyone needs to take responsibility for online promotion of the events and initiatives they're working on

Board mtg schedule (July-Dec)

--Wednesdays work for everyone present; Mary will check others (*Paul re: Pac-Tac)

--Once we set dates, we should stick to the schedule, regardless of individual conflicts

Neighborhood Group Updates

Block Club Training

--Tracey attended; not very informational or applicable to what we have going here; one clear takeaway was to contact existing block groups and reach out to them before we do anything; organizer is willing to meet with us separately to discuss ideas if we would like

--Idea: include an article in the next Buzz asking for current block club contacts and people interested in becoming block club leaders

NBN6 – Parking garage

--We need to weigh in and let Carlene (NBN6) know our vote on whether we support the parking garage being used during Highland Bowl concerts this summer

--Group discussed and decided it was important to know whether Cypress/Linden neighbors support it; Mary will contact them and find out

--Delay vote until we have this information, then vote by email

ESCAPE – Banners

--ESCAPE Committee is requesting that we remove our banners on S. Clinton so they can hang banners that roll out their branding initiative for the Avenue

--All agreed that we should definitely keep the 2 banners at the top of S. Clinton, but that we should consider taking down the 4 other banners that are in the “business district” from Linden down to Gregory.

--Group discussed and decided it was important to know what our options would be for re-positioning the banners we would take down (hanging them on internal streets or corner of Meigs/S. Clinton); Mike will find out from Matt McCarthy what poles/permits are available

--Delay vote until we have this information, then vote by email

Speak to Council & Mayor's Forum

--Half dozen people from the Highland Park Neighborhood spoke to Council in April 25; they seemed attentive and receptive; Mary will forward a copy of her statement

--The Mayor's budget forum on April 26 was a record turnout since the City started the Voice of the Customer forums; it was a good opportunity to give input on library and rec center closings

Recent Activities

Marathon Spirit Contest

--Unanimous vote to use the \$750 cash prize toward the kiosk in the Park; Mary will discuss with Marcia and Michael making sure this makes sense given other money available for park improvement plans

Gardening Cleanup

--Honor Park & S. Clinton gardens were cleaned up on May 7 thanks to Roger & Charlie Ramsay (S. Clinton) and Amy Priestley & Vikki Kolb (Honor Pk); they will be requesting plants from the City and a new flag and lighting for Honor Park

--Meghan signed us up for the City's free plant pickup on May 21 and will find people to help do plantings at the Park

Buzz

--There are still some undelivered streets on Matt's porch that are assigned but some people have not come to deliver (we need to take them off the delivery list since they're not following through); anyone who has time please help deliver the rest; Mary R. said she will deliver some

Library petition

--We submitted the results of our petition signed by 520 people to City Council & Mayor (see Mary's email); Jill will mail in the petition forms as a last step

Ongoing and Upcoming (May/June) Activities

Lilac Festival Plans

--Mary will ask Michael and Marcia to send an email to the Board with information about what they need help with

Neighborhood Yard Sale

-- Jane will need help putting signs up the week before, but otherwise she has is under control

--Tracy can get a little blurb (20-30 words) in City Newspaper; Mike will let Jane know

June 14 General Mtg

--Mary will be working on plans in the next few weeks; doesn't know much more than the writeup in the Buzz

--Suggestion to consider changing topic to something more applicable to what's happening with families in the neighborhood, City budget issues, etc; Mary will think about it

Playdates in the Park

--Meghan will figure out offering refreshments, maybe donations from Muddy Waters or Equal Grounds; Mary can help with solicitation if needed

Business cards

--Tracey has heard back from several board members who would like some; she will buy paper at the Paper Store and Matt will try to have them printed through his contacts

Park improvements

--Mary will talk to Michael and Marcia about putting the Spirit Contest funds toward the kiosk project; they can update us on plans at the next Bd mtg (after Lilac Fest)

RACF Grant/Free Partnerships project

--Lori has taken over responsibility for School #12 partnership and Ruth will handle the Monroe HS partnership, making sure we fulfill the commitments we made in the grant