

2011 01 31 St. Johns Neighborhood Association Board Meeting

Board Members Present: Hiedi Bauer, Babs Adamski, Darlene Foye, Thomas Ebert, Sarah Havens, CJ Doxsee, Mark Stinette, Mark Savage, Lorelei Juntenen

Call to order: 7:04 p.m.

Social:

- Hurray! It was very successful. Feedback has been plentiful and positive.
 - Greeting/welcoming aspect was quite strong: there were nametags, there were greeters, and there were kids who were taking people's coats.
 - Having the food come out in a few shifts helped distribute it more equitably.
 - The raffle prizes were fabulous.
 - Ample space for the puppet show: good for acoustics
 - Ambient lighting and music were very nice.

- Improvements for next year:
 - Volunteer coordinator could have used better communication between groups, a more centralized location for volunteers to check in, and a more specific fallback plan if volunteers are late or don't show up.
 - It will be good to set up a comprehensive notebook that outlines what every component and job is from start to finish, complete with timelines, best practices, etc.
 - The centralized location in the lobby would be a great Neighborhood Association outpost/social central/volunteer coordination central.
 - Signs for what is where and what is when would be helpful.
 - Could have a program with a schedule, with instructions,
 - Be sure that any food that is donated is requested for a very specific time.
 - Would be good to try to get a head count as people came in.
 - The raffle sales would have been good to be more centrally located and with roving raffle sales people.
 - A mingling game like human bingo would be good or trivia.
 - Perhaps call out the raffle prizes in the nonprofit room, where people are stuck.
 - Would be good to have a food coordinator in addition to a volunteer coordinator; this person could also call ahead to restaurants to be sure that food is ready before it is time to pick up.
 - Would be good to designate a photographer to document the event.

- Income was very roughly \$495 with donations and the raffle, and expenses were about \$724; the entire social only cost about \$250.

Darlene Foye has been appointed as assistant treasurer so that our treasurer's duties are in accordance with the bylaws.

Tree inventory:

- This is a city of Portland initiative that's being done by volunteers in the neighborhoods. Considering how this project fits into our as yet loosely defined goals and visions, it could be an initiative that brings neighbors together to work for the common good; it ties into land use to a certain extent and helps to create a more livable community. It also might engage neighbors with a skill set heretofore untapped. Our output would be some volunteer effort and perhaps some volunteer coordination, some publicity of both project and its results.
- High schools or scouting troops might be interested in becoming involved.
- Babs moves that the SJNA sponsor the initiative, by means such as using our email to get the word out and to get volunteers with a plan to connect various community groups such as local high schools etc. to this project. Lorelei seconds. Motion carries.

Constant Contact is having an all day workshop on February 25th for about \$149. This is the service that we use to do our email blast. Babs would like Emilie Saks-Webb, the person who has been heavily involved in coordinating our email blasts, to attend this workshop.

- It was suggested that it might be fair to split the cost with Emilie as she gains some professional benefit from this service.
- General concerns were raised about the price of the workshop.
- It was suggested that we focus our attention on expanding our communication by getting the website up and running as opposed to greater email outreach.
- Concerns were expressed as to what you would get from the training and whether the training seemed to be commercial in nature.
- For a person who hasn't had the training, it can be tremendously helpful.
- Babs is trying to negotiate a better rate for the monthly fee, as SJNA is a nonprofit, which would mitigate the cost of the workshop.
- It was agreed that the website would be a greater priority, especially if we're looking at where to allocate funds while keeping our eyes on opportunities that are a little bit less expensive.

Website

- Next steps, moving forward with specific goals and objectives for the website, move forward with a contract phase, probably need to look at increasing the amount that we would want to spend. There are resources available that could offset this cost, such as grants.

Budget/Burgerville:

- Roughly \$4000 in Albina.
- Tying the Burgerville fundraising to a particular project, like the website, might increase community involvement, both in volunteers and in folks who come in to eat.
- Could also create some buzz like having a raffle or a snuggie night.
- Could use the fantastic Friday email list and maybe have trivia.

Land Use

- CJ will bring the latest permit notice to the general meeting.
- Ida & Lombard has had several pedestrian accidents, pedestrians struck in crosswalks while they had right of way. Lorelei has requested that PBOT do a study of that intersection for traffic safety. They did but indicated that there was nothing further to be done.
- Babs has also been discussing pedestrian safety and road erosion issues regarding this stretch of Lombard.
- We as a neighborhood need to be making a lot more noise about pedestrian and bicycle safety, as this is the strategy that gets results in transportation related issues.
- There's also a subcommittee that's being started by the North Portland Chairs Committee to address neighborhood transportation issues. CJ and Mark Savage expressed interest in being involved on this subcommittee.

Smith & Bybee

- Merrit has contaminated soil and water that is feeding into Smith and Bybee. There may be a public forum to discuss Merrit Oil's plan to treat this pollution issue. There land is on part of the Smith and Bybee wetlands. This would be a good thing for the Smith and Bybee group to bring to the next general meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:56 p.m.