

Minutes of the June 4, 2008
Downtown Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Meeting

Call to Order: President, Mr. Ben Washburn, called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

Roll Call: Board Members Mr. Washburn, Ms. China Wong, Ms. Stacy Berenguel, Mr. Brett Fine, Mr. Michael Eberle, and Sergeant Misti Allen were present.

Discussion Topics

Approval of 5.7.08 Minutes

Ms. Wong motioned to approve. Mr. Eberle seconded.

Des Moines Police Department Report

Detective Ellis introduced himself. His division covers fraud and auto theft. Currently, there haven't been a lot of auto theft activity in the downtown area. Hondas and Acuras have been stolen more frequently in the past few months. Also, tow trucks have been picking up cars that have been left unattended. Detective Ellis advised to move one's car on a regular basis.

Sergeant Misti Allen reported that Mr. Smithson sold his bar to the owner of Drink, Mr. Baldwin. She also noted that there have been problems at the cab stands.

President's Report

Mr. Washburn was approached by the Bike Collective at 6th Ave. and Grand. It is for those in need of bikes. The Bike Collective needs volunteers Sunday, June 29th. DNA will send an e-mail regarding the Bike Collective.

Also, Mr. Washburn suggested that DNA spearhead a fundraising effort to keep the D-Line running. In about three years, the D-Line will be in need of funding. Ms. Wong suggested educating DNA members regarding the D-Line's route and schedule.

Treasurer's Report

Current balance is \$5,233 in the checking account, while the PayPal account has \$1,197.29. Total is \$6,430.99. Ms. Wong motioned to approve. Seconded by Ms. Berenguel.

Committee Reports

Membership Committee

Ms. MacQuigg had nothing to report for the month of May.

Social

Ms. Wong stated that she and Ms. Paula Feltner are working on the National Night Out social. The event will take place on Tuesday, August 5th on the red bridge. Target is the national sponsor of National Night Out; Ms. Wong stated that she is currently soliciting Target and Hy-Vee for an in-kind food donation. She is also working to make the event more kid-friendly. Anyone with press contacts is advised to forward them to Ms. Wong, as she is trying to get press coverage for DNA.

Mr. Washburn mentioned that DNA could have a social on June 17th at Mr. Jack Hatch's newly renovated building on Locust in the Western Gateway. The only drawback would be that there would be no air conditioning. Ms. Wong suggested that we have the social at Midtown Heights on June 17th, as opposed to the Locust building. She advised that DNA have the social at Mr. Hatch's building at a later date, when air conditioning is available. The board approved and Mr. Washburn will try to confirm by Friday, June 5th.

New Business

Jared from Burnett Realty noted that five of the 4th Street condos have been sold. He suggested having a social on the rooftop, as it would hold about 75 people. He also stated that Midtown Heights will have an open house on Thursday, June 5th from 5-7 PM. Five Midtown Heights units have been sold thus far.

Old Business

Mr. Washburn revisited the subject of the viability of DNA's committees. He noted that the Membership and Social Committees have been active; the other committees, however, have been inactive due to lack of leadership and member involvement. Ms. Wong suggested that each board member take ownership or be involved in a committee that s/he is passionate about. Mr. Eberle advised for DNA to create a Communications Committee, which would focus on marketing and public relations. The board agreed to create a Communications Committee; a call for interest in the Communications Committee Director will be sent to all DNA members. It was resolved that DNA would have the following three committees (to start): Communications, Membership, and Social Committees.

Adjournment

Mr. Eberle motioned to adjourn. Ms. Wong seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.