

BPNA, INC

Executive Board Meeting September 10, 2009

Time and Location: 7:30-8:45 pm, home of Sally Flory-O'Neil (*change in location: originally planned for Dave Philipp's home*)
Directors Present: Margaret Buss, Marc De la Vergne, Hal Edmonds, Sally Flory-O'Neil, Rob Sperling, and Catherine Turrill
Directors Absent: Dave Philipp

Secretary's Report

Two suggestions have been made for corrections to the August minutes. The By-Laws discussion, and in particular the clarification of the passage about membership, will be deferred until the general meeting in January. Questions about other details of the document will not be raised with the lawyer unless necessary. One omitted item from the August minutes was the preliminary discussion of the formation of a nominating committee for the creation of a slate of candidates for the new Board.

Treasurer's Report

Hal distributed copies of his two-page report and explained that the current balance actually is lower than the amount indicated there, closer to \$2000. However, as Sally observed, even this balance is higher than usual in the week immediately before the annual Spaghetti Dinner, after the dinner supplies have been purchased but before tickets for the dinner have been sold.

Article Topics/Authors, October issue of *ParkBeat*:

Now that Asha has returned from vacation, we will be following past procedures for assembling articles for the next issue of *ParkBeat*.

- Historic home: Asha
- Spaghetti Dinner thanks: Sally
- SOCA Home Tours thanks: Catherine and Margaret
- Friends of the River Banks: Catherine
- Midtown Children's Fair: Information to be requested from Tiffany Simpson

- Brief news items: Death of Louise Barbosa, Daytime Emmy award winner: Catherine
- MTBA Hallowe'en Event: Margaret
- Town Hall Meetings for Charter Reform: Margaret
- New/renewing members: Sally
- Board Nomination Committee: Rob
- Seasonal gutter cleaning reminder: Margaret

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Spaghetti Dinner Update

Sally reviewed all of the things that had been done, and which still need to be done, in preparation for the annual Spaghetti Dinner on September 12. At the August meeting, the Board had agreed that gift-cards for dinner and a movie should be given to the Cosentino family in gratitude for their many services to the neighborhood. Marc was responsible for picking up the cards. Arrangements also have been made for buying and storing the bread, getting change for the ticket sales table, buying salad supplies (tomatoes, lettuce, etc.), buying ice, and setting up the tables and chairs provided by city services (we had been told that new tables and chairs had been purchased: these will be delivered by the city and set up by volunteers starting at 9:00 on Saturday morning). Margaret will be providing a small table for use by representatives of SOCA to promote the annual Home Tour. All three banners—the two new BPNA banners and the older one owned by Paul Harriman—will be put on display outside Pete Bramson's home.

Steps Toward the Election of the Next BPNA Board

As stated in the BPNA By-Laws, a nominating committee needs to be formed so that a slate of candidates can be created. We discussed which of the current Board members were willing to be considered for next year's Board: Catherine and Marc are both interested; Hal is willing to run if an additional candidate is needed for the slate formed by the Nominating Committee; Margaret is undecided; and Dave, Sally, and Rob have decided not to run at all. We also discussed the formation of the nominating committee. Since she is not planning to run for the 2010 Board, Sally agreed to work on this task. Rob also offered to store BPNA supplies in his basement even after he leaves the Board.

EIN (Employer Identification Number) and IRS Paperwork

As a 501(c)(4) organization, BPNA is required to file a tax return within 18 months of its charter (in our case, that occurred in August 2008). Sally recommended that we try to complete this project by November. Dave and Hal have agreed to work on it.

Preservation Application

Several residents, but not BPNA, were sent notices of an application to build a two-story single family home on the east side of the 200 block of 22nd Street (in a vacant lot next to Darby Patterson's house). We need to see why BPNA was not consulted as well.

Request from Friends of Grant Park on Behalf of Midtown Children's Fair

As in past years, BPNA has been asked if it would make a donation towards expenses related to the Annual Midtown Children's Fair. Monica Vejar made the request to the Board by e-mail; Tiffany Simpson provided additional information. She explained to the Board that the funds would go toward children's entertainment. After some discussion, it was moved, seconded, and voted to offer a donation of \$250.00.

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Concerns About Problems Related to the Homeless Population and Grant Park

Members of the Board had been contacted by Darby Patterson and other residents who have been impacted by the increased amount of disruptive activity that seems to be related to the growing number of homeless people using Grant Park and its restrooms, especially at night. Darby Patterson reported that as many as three police sweeps were being made each day in response to complaints about the situation. A trial closure of the public restrooms has been suggested, as also was done in Fremont Park. Apparently the results from the restroom closure at Fremont Park, where the problem was aggravated by drug usage, have been positive. In discussion, we considered the fact that Grant Park is used for evening events (night softball and soccer games, for example) and for public events sponsored by the Friends of Grant Park. We agreed that FGP also should be involved in the discussion. Rob suggested that he could mention the issue to Tiffany Simpson (acting chair of FGP) when he contacted her about our decision to make a donation towards the Midtown Children's Fair next month. One way to deal with a closure of the public bathrooms would be to issue keys to the FGP and, possibly, to neighbors living near the Park. Margaret suggested further that she would like to see the Board send a formal letter to Steve Cohn and to the city, expressing our concern awareness of, and concern about, the deteriorating conditions in Grant Park. She also offered to write the letter on behalf of the Board. In addition, she already has contacted Sue Brown (District 3 Director) for advice.

Scheduling the January General Meeting

We discussed two possible dates for the January meeting: January 6, the first Wednesday of the month, and January 13. Although we are more likely to get a reservation on the 13th, we will try first for the 6th. Sally will contact the Ethel Hart Center to ask about room availability.

October Meeting Location and Date

Hal Edmonds will host the next meeting on October 10.

The September meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.