

Lancaster Downtowners Steering Committee

June 20, 2006

Minutes

Facilitator: Rod Houser

Present: Mimi Shapiro, Marga Lane, Charles Lane, Ken Nissley, Eugene Aleci, June Lang, Pat Kalish, Jim Kalish, Lois Good

Rod called the group together to serve as an unofficial steering committee to address issue of moving Downtowners group in the direction of having a more defined identity and official structure.

- 1. Group dialogue**—Katy Heinzl, a member of Community Mennonite Church, led the group in an exercise of Dialogue and Deliberation in which each person had three minutes to speak to the same question without questions or comments from others in the group. The purpose was to establish value in each persons ideas to help clarify what our next moves should be in organization of Downtowners. Each person responded to the question:

What are the most important things you would like to see happen under the umbrella of the Lancaster Downtowners by June 2009? Or as Katy re-phrased it, What are the most important things that you think we need to address in the next three years?

Responses follow:

Rod Houser

- Define self and health care options
- Become a welcoming group
- Provide support/help to each other and neighborhood groups

Mimi Shapiro

- Promote ideas for people to get into town - reach out to others
- Begin to develop or rehab housing for intentional community
- Create a dues structure and purchase a copy of the Beacon Hill Plan

Marga Lane

- Concerned who does the work/share the work, and the technical part

Charles Lane

- Actual group tax exempt - will get bank info and will act as the treasurer
- Develop programs for all ages and price ranges for the community
- Core group if community is up and running

Ken Nissley

- Develop a formal organization - just do it
- Create a clear statement of who Lancaster Downtowners are and what we represent
- Develop a structure to move forward and get the Beacon Hill Plan
- Create identity and Mission Statement
- Name a steering Committee to promote the ideas

Gene Aleci

- Create vision/State and describe values/identity/neighbors hope and accomplishment
- Develop a structure to move this group forward
- Examine the Beacon Hill model
- Implementation and support
- Make ourselves known to the mayor's office—may be helpful so that our group is known and then they will be supportive of our beliefs and values for the future of the city
- Become part of city agenda - visit to Planning and Zoning

June Lang

- Has been involved with intentional communities for 6 or 7 years
- Work toward whole life diversity

- Economic piece has to be addressed for the workforce and retired people in Chester & Lancaster County population
- Address health care
- Use workshops and presentations to assist in our decision making
- Membership should be affordable for all—sliding scale

Pat Kalish

- Provide quality of life for aging/social element and getting help

Jim Kalish

- Establish purpose of our group
- Age in place and live independently
- Provide services and home management—take animals to the Vet, social workers and snow shoveling social aspects and visits between members of the group

Lois Good

- Recently retired from the office of the aging
- Develop Mission and Vision Statement
- Define areas of membership
- Create dues structure and privileges
- Define core organization

2. Next steps

- A. Steering Committee—For purposes of organization, the group assembled will be a decision making body for matters of determining direction for the larger group. Rod Houser will act as facilitator and Charles Lane as treasurer. This arrangement will be in effect until the larger group adopts a more formal organizational structure.
 - B. Name—The name of the group will be Lancaster Downtowners.
 - C. Web presence—For purposes of identifying itself to the general public, Downtowners will maintain a website. Rod presented a draft format with a page describing the group and a second page reviewing its history. Jim Kalish will work with Rod to add additional pages. Rod will secure the domain name, lancasterdowntowners.org, and check out a possible host site. After Jim and Rod complete a draft of the site, the Steering Committee will have opportunity to review. Upon acceptance, the site will be made public. Deadline—July 19.
 - D. PO Box, EIN and checking account—Charles Lane will secure an EIN for the group, open a checking account and rent a post office box. (*Note: We are officially Lancaster Downtowners at P.O. Box 224, Lancaster, PA 17608-0224*)
 - E. Beacon Hill Village Founders Manual—Downtowners will purchase the manual to use as a guide. Charles will order the manual as soon as funds are available.
 - F. Finances—Startup costs will total around \$500: \$300 for Beacon Hill manual, \$50 for mailbox, \$60 for web host, \$90 miscellaneous. An additional kitty of \$500 would be helpful. Although we may develop some sort of dues structure in the future, we will raise our initial money by soliciting funds from among ourselves and the larger group by asking for donations of \$20 or \$50 per individual or household. (*Note: In the actual solicitation that went out, suggested donations were \$10 to \$100.*)
- 3. Adjournment**—We adjourned to Steinman Park by Pressroom Restaurant to enjoy fine food, drink, fellowship and a beautiful evening in our beloved city. Next meeting, July 19 at Community Mennonite Church.

Recorded by Rod Houser and Mimi Shapiro