

# Lancaster Downtowners Steering Committee

July 19, 2006

## Minutes

**Facilitator:** Rod Houser

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

1. **Minutes of last meeting**—Minutes of last meeting were approved as reported.
2. **Treasurer report**—Charles reported that \$415 has been contributed to date. Beacon Hill Development manual is costing \$305 plus \$18.80 for shipping. Website cost will be around \$65. There is currently a balance of \$96.20 in our checking account.  

Jim Kalish suggested that we anticipate needs for funds during the next 60 days, but no immediate needs were suggested. Should we be budgeting for mailings? Rod prefers keeping communication to email, but Marga reminds us that we don't want to limit membership/interest only to persons who have computers.

When Rod posts minutes of this meeting on the mailing list, he will make a second appeal for contributions.
3. **Website review**—Rod asked for feed back and suggestions on the website, particularly on areas that may be confusing or may not represent what the group as a whole thinks. Comments follow:
  - Lois Good received positive feedback from colleagues at Landis Homes.
  - Jim Kalish suggested that website should show date of most recent update so viewers know that what they are looking at is current. Include a banner or note on first page if upcoming events to also suggest that information is timely.
  - Ken Nissley suggested inclusion of peacemaking and right relationships with community and environment as ideas that could be included with values. June would like to see intergenerational and aging in place included as part of who we are. Rod will work on wording and update values section. June also asked how does our statement of values show that we are different from any other typical white middle class community.
  - Photo on opening page makes good initial impression; history page can change as we go along; fluidity is beauty of the web, wording regarding relationships with zoning board and planning commission can be improved; items listed as development strategies should be noted as having been accomplished; instructions for subscribing to mailing list should list contacting downtowners with email request as first method, and directly subscribing on a web page as a second option.
4. **Membership considerations**—Should we be thinking of a two or three tier membership structure with higher fees connected to more services? At our next general meeting, we'll suggest a \$20 per household membership fee until we have more than just information to offer.
5. **Social Committee**—Should we establish a social committee to plan events like gatherings at restaurants, video or DVD nights? Group decided to plan a downtown walk including some open houses for Saturday, October 14.
6. **Publicity**—There is general agreement that the group is ready for newspaper coverage. Tim Buckwalter of Lancaster New Era had indicated interest to Rod for doing an article, but no one in the group reads the New Era. Would Jeff Hawkes be interested in doing a column? Would a Senior Citizen feature by Lori Van Ingen be appropriate? Would Suzy Hoover be a helpful contact? Rod will talk with Jeff Hawkes to see if he is interested or if he has ideas other ideas.  

Group would like to have some sort of flyer to hand out to persons who may have interest in the group. Rod will prepare a pdf file with information from the website in a format that individuals can print and hand out.
7. **Beacon Hill Village development plan**—Charles brought the BHV plan to the meeting. The document had just arrived in the mail. Rod will review the plan, then pass it on to Charles and other members of the group for their review.
8. **Service provider list**—The service provider list is the only thing we have to offer at this time. Rod will work on updating the list by circulating a request for persons to make suggestions.
9. **General meeting**—September 25 was set as a time for a general meeting with the wider group of persons interested in Lancaster Downtowners. The meeting will include a review of what the steering committee has been working on to date, a review of the Beacon Hill Village plan and small group discussions to get feed back on the BHV plan. The idea of \$20 yearly dues will be presented with opportunity for persons to officially join the group.
10. **Steering Committee meeting**—Steering Committee will meet September 6, 7 p.m. at Community Mennonite Church to finalize plans for the September general meeting.
11. **Lancaster County Housing Summit**—June Lang encouraged attendance at Lancaster County Housing Summit, October 5, at Eden Resort Inn.