

# Lancaster Downtowners Steering Committee

September 6, 2006

## Minutes

**Facilitator:** Rod Houser

**Present:** Marga Lane, Charles Lane, Ken Nissley, Jim Kalish, Gene Aleci, Lois Good

1. **Minutes of last meeting**—Minutes of last meeting were reviewed. Rod noted that he has not received or submitted a bill for our website.
2. **Treasurer report**—Charles reported a balance of \$96.20 as of July 31, 2006, receipts from individuals of \$200 in August, no expenses during August and a balance of \$296.20 on August 31, 2006.

Persons who have contributed so far to Downtowners are:

Mimi Shapiro & Paul  
Engleheart  
Jim & Pat Kalish  
Rod & Mary Lou Houser  
Charles and Marga Lane  
June Lang

Rachel Pellman  
Ken Nissley  
Gene & Linda Aleci  
Lois Good  
Kay & Vincent Garrity-Roth  
Herbert Myers

Murray Foreman  
Michael Jackson  
Sandra & Harvey Asher  
Joe Miller  
Henry Biedrzycki  
Karen Zimmerman

### 3. Reporting in

Lancaster Downtowners received publicity by way of column written by Jeff Hawkes in the local newspaper in August. New interest in our group has come from individuals who read that article.

Mike Jackson, Fred Pargeon and Sandy and Harvey Asher of Five Points Neighborhood Association (Olde Towne) have been interested in the Beacon Hill Village model and were encouraged by reading about our interest in the Hawkes column. Representatives from their group will attend our September general meeting.

Rod was contacted by Michael Sprunger, staff person of the newly forming Lancaster Living organization, who suggested mutual interest between our group and theirs. Lancaster Living that is forming under leadership of Nancy Neff and Phil Wenger has interest in increasing the number of owner occupied residences in Lancaster.

The Hourglass group in Lancaster made reference to Lancaster Downtowners in one of their recent meetings.

Joe Wagman of Wagman Developers invited Rod to breakfast for conversation around his growing interest in a cohousing model for some development work he is anticipating in Lancaster. Joe asked about the appropriateness of his attending our meetings.

Ed Longenecker, CEO of Landis Homes, also had coffee with Rod expressing their interest in remaining in conversation with us as we consider services we may want to connect with for in home health care. Ed offered the possibility of further conversation and some financial support but clearly wanted to maintain boundaries that our group felt appropriate.

Lois Good reported on an upcoming conference in Baltimore next spring sponsored by Environments For Aging. Lois suggested we consider attending, as their agenda fits very much into areas of our interest. Information on the group and the upcoming conference can be found at <http://www.environmentsforaging.com/>.

### 4. Responses

Regarding the contact with Joe Wagman and Ed Longenecker: We feel that independence of our group from any other groups with corporate interest is very important. We want to exercise caution in accepting any financial gifts or promoting interest of such groups to our membership.

## 5. Planning for September 25 general meeting

Rod circulated a draft of notes that he took from the Beacon Hill manual. He suggested making copies of these notes to distribute to persons attending the September meeting as a way to acquaint them with some of the main ideas of the Beacon Hill Village. The group agreed that the notes should be re-formatted to allow persons to make their own notes as the presentation is being made. Following the presentation by Rod with some help from others in the steering committee who have studied the manual, the group will divide into small groups, facilitated by members of the steering committee, to respond to the following questions:

- a. Suggest a most important “nugget” to you from what you have learned about the Beacon Hill Village approach.
- b. What parts of this plan excite you? What parts give you concern?
- c. How would you prioritize the scope of services in the Beacon Hill plan should some sort of similar village concept emerge for downtown Lancaster?

Facilitators will record the small group responses on newsprint. Following 15 to 20 minutes of small group discussion, the larger group will re-convene, newsprint summaries will be posted and group facilitators will give a short verbal report from their group.

A separate handout of the scope of services portion of the Beacon Hill summary with extra space for comments could be distributed as a take home document with an invitation for further response as people have more time to think about their priorities for a Lancaster mode.

## 6. Next steps

Persons attending the general meeting will be invited to make a contribution to Lancaster Downtowners if they have not already done so.

Rod will make a posting to the mailing list inviting persons to open their downtown homes for the open house walk scheduled for October. Details for this walk will be announced at the September meeting.

Steering Committee will meet October 11, 2006 to review the findings from the September general meeting, particularly the priorities for services. Our next step will be to discuss what sort of structure of our group will be needed if we want to be able to provide these services.

At what point should we research the demographics of the Lancaster community? If this is important to us, how should such research be carried out.

Do we want to plan more social activities, such as informal gatherings for meals at downtown restaurants? Priorities suggested by persons at the meeting may give some direction for this.

*Recorded by Rod Houser*