

Lancaster Downtowners Steering Committee

January 30, 2007

Minutes

Facilitator: Rod Houser

Present: Charles Lane, Ken Nissley, Jim Kalish, Lois Good, Gene Aleci, Fred Pargeon, Carolyn Pargeon, Sandy Asher.

1. **Agenda**—Rod set a two point agenda for the evening: 1. Response to November meeting with Judith Neal of Senior Care Cooperative of Swathmore, PA and 2. Review of proposals by Jim Kalish for future direction of Downtowners.
2. **SCC (Senior Care Cooperative) November meeting**—Rod reviewed minutes of November meeting with Judith Neal and asked for questions of clarification from those who did not attend the meeting and reactions to the Swathmore model as presented by Judith.
 - a. Charles reported that he had received documents that we had requested from Judith: bylaws, initial community questionnaire.
 - b. SCC does not seem to be a 5013c non-profit corporation but rather an incorporated cooperative with non-profit status. The board is likely advisory rather than elected.
 - c. SCC is a NORC, Naturally Occuring Retirement Community.
 - d. Everyone who attended the luncheon recognized the energy and commitment of Judith to the SCC in Swathmore but felt that the evident success of the organization was highly dependent on her as a person. If Judith would be removed from the structure, would it still be viable?
 - e. How does SCC compare with some of our vision for the future of Lancaster Downtowners?
 - SCC basically provides some social work types of service and connects people in their group with providers that they need as they age in their homes. This function is important to Downtowners, but we also would hope to have a social, educational and mutual support function within our group.
 - We want to be sure that our future is built around a sound structure that is maintained by an employee of the organization rather than someone whose services are only compensated by a stipend. The director of our services needs to be someone who could easily be replaced should he or she choose to leave the organization.
 - We want an intergenerational dimension to our group, but are not clear as to what we would have to offer to younger persons.
 - We do not want to duplicate services that are already available in the community. For example, we do not want to try to provide services already available through the Lancaster Office of Aging. As does SCC, we would want to connect person with the services that they need.
 - While we are interested in having a social dimension to our organization, we are not interested in the style of services of a typical “senior center.”
3. **Jim Kalish prospectus for Downtowners**
 - a. Jim and Rod had circulated prior to the meeting a prospectus that Jim put together that outlined a possible scenario that we could follow to translate the abstract talk that we have been having into something concrete.
 - b. Jim introduced his ideas by suggesting that we need to build on our strengths. We have a community “out there” that is highly interested in the things we have been talking about.
 - c. Jim proposed a 6 month period to accomplish many of the goals outlined in his prospectus. These include:
 - Acquiring start up money: large contributions of 1 to 5 thousand dollars for a total of \$15,000. Also smaller donations from a two tier membership with dues of roughly \$20 per month for one level and \$20 per year for a second level.
 - Finding resources that can help us with specific tasks and/or technical assistance.
 - We may need to find a “protector” who can accept grant money intended for our use.
 - As soon as funds are available we need to think of hiring a part time staff person at a rate somewhere around \$20 per hour. We need an identifiable location that would include office, phone and computer—a “place” for the staff person.
 - We should begin to consider some manageable low risk service programs, educational programs and social activities.

- d. Fred interrupted Jim and expressed the general enthusiasm of the group to move ahead with what Jim had written down, and the group agreed to meet soon to flesh out some of these ideas. We need to begin making connections with the larger community resources:
- Local hospital
 - Mike Sturla, state representative—Fred has had conversation with Mike where Mike has indicated possibility of state money for our group.
 - Churches
 - Lancaster Living—Mike Sprunger

4. Current structure/organization

- a. For now, we are identifying ourselves as the steering committee of the group.
- b. Rod clarified his role in the group as facilitator who has felt good about leadership to date, but indicated that he does not have the skills, connections etc. to continue in a leadership role as we move in the direction of more formal organization. While there is general enthusiasm in moving on with Jim's proposals, no one from the group is interested in assuming a leadership role.
- c. For now, the group is comfortable to move ahead with discussion and implementation of Jim's idea with the leadership question still unresolved.
- d. Nancy Rogers, Larue Allen, Nancy and Bob Frankhouser should be invited to future meetings.

5. Meeting with Downtown Investment District—Rod and Charles will accept invitation of DID to meet with them Monday, February 12, 6 p.m. to share our ideas and vision.

6. Next meeting—Tuesday, February 20, 7 p.m.

7. Future meeting—Tuesday, March 6, 7 p.m.

Recorded by Rod Houser