

Lancaster Downtowners Board Meeting

November 10, 2008

Minutes

Present: Rod Houser, Charles Lane, Mimi Shapiro, Lois Good, Nancy B. Rogers, Jim Kalish, Mary Lou Higgs, Emily Booker, Ken Nissley

Absent: Del Seitz, Joni Soost

1. **Treasurer's Report**—Balance \$3459.94 plus grant money held by Lancaster Alliance.
2. **October Minutes**—Approved
3. **Dues Increase**—Rod presented a proposal from Executive Committee to increase dues to a flat \$50 per person and have membership year run from January 1 through December 31. Rod circulated a draft letter that would be sent to current members and a suggested approach to adopting this change. After a long discussion, the board voted to keep dues at the current level of \$40 per person and \$60 per household of two persons and define membership year as starting the month a person begins membership and continuing to the same month of the following year. Consensus was that keeping the dues at current rate will result in an increased number in membership which is important at this stage of our organization. A rolling calendar year will maintain cash flow throughout the year and should not be difficult to manage.
4. **Membership Solicitation**—Rod circulated a list of persons who are on our email list but currently not members. At our next meeting, board members will indicate persons that they are willing to contact personally by phone to invite them to become members.
5. **End of Year Appeal**—Rod and Emily will work with Beth to draft an end of year appeal for contributions to be sent to all members and persons on our email list. Board members will be invited to stuff and stamp envelopes when the materials are ready.
6. **Board Participation in End of Year Giving**—Board agreed that each member will make or pledge an end of year gift above membership dues to serve as examples to other members and non-members who we will solicit for contributions.
7. **Committee Membership**—Current committees and members or potential members follow:
Development: Emily Booker, Del Seitz, Mary Lou Higgs
Membership: Rod Houser, Mary Kearns, possibly Joni Soost (This group has not met as a committee.)
Service Provider: Ken Nissley, Nelson Keener, Dave Hommell, Tom Kurtz, Evelyn Lyons
Public Relations: Nancy B. Rogers, possibly Bob Ibold
Program Committee: Jim Kalish, Ann Adams, Jean Becker, Jarol Boan, Emily Booker, Bob Ibold, Marie Lefever, Joni Soost, Bob Wolf, Lois Good. Program Committee is atypical in that a general invitation is given to meetings and those in attendance are the committee for that meeting. Rod suggested that the group identify a smaller number that could function as an executive committee.
8. **Invitation to Arts Hotel**—Mara Sultan who is on staff at Lancaster Arts Hotel invited Downtowners to use facilities at the hotel for meeting space. She also offered to arrange a tour accompanied by a light lunch. Rod will get more information.
9. **Next Meeting**—Monday, December 8, 7 p.m.