

Lancaster Downtowners Board Meeting

June 10, 2009

Minutes

Present: Rod Houser, Emily Booker, Ken Nissley, Del Seitz, Joni Soost, Lois Good, Nancy B. Rogers, Jim Kalish, Bob Ibold (visitor?).

Absent: Jim Kalish

Meeting facilitated by Rod Houser

- 1. Brochures**—200 copies of the full color brochure have been printed. Board members took copies with them to distribute to interested persons. We agreed that we should make the brochures freely available when a person to person contact can be made but not leave copies at public places for people to pick up. The Communications/Publicity Committee (Nancy Rogers, Bob Ibold, others?) will consider others who should receive copies for distribution such as realtors and vetted service providers. We also want to represent ourselves with the brochures at neighborhood events such as the Musser Park party. Rod will send copies of the brochure pdf to board members and post it on the website. There is no information on the brochure directing readers to membership application forms. One idea is to make labels to attach with this information or depending on venue, include membership applications with the brochure.
- 2. Treasurers Report**—Del reported a cash balance of \$2,605.72. Report is attached.
- 3. June Social Event**—Plans are in place for the event at the Rogers home with an expected attendance of at least 25–30 people. Board members volunteered contributions of food and wine.
- 4. August Social Event**—Rod will plan another ethnic restaurant visit for August. Members like the idea of another visit to the Peruvian restaurant on West King Street.
- 5. Available Services vs Uniqueness of Lancaster Downtowners**—Emily shared some ideas of what should be the uniqueness of LD particularly with respect to services provided by Office of the Aging. She reviewed the history starting with the Older American's Act in the 60's which led to the development of services such as Meals on Wheels, senior citizen centers and availability of "chore services" such as cleaning and assistance with shopping. Office of the Aging became a provider of these types of services. Over the years these programs have become expensive and involve long waits for potential clients. The focus of services have shifted from social and medical to mainly medical with the services becoming more and more available only to high risk situations.

Much of the Downtowners population is not in the high risk for medical services category but increasingly becoming more in need of the chore services that are not readily available at least at affordable rates. Addressing this need is the niche that makes us unique.

- 6. Volunteer Program**—Continuing the work that Beth outlined for developing a volunteer program within the organization is an immediate way that we can address the issues of #5 above. Office of the Aging could also be a resource. A model that would fit our initial efforts would be friend helping friend, being available for unanticipated situations like recuperation following a hospital visit or an extended illness. An initial survey to solicit volunteers should provide various options such as driving to appointments, home companion visits or grocery shopping. Potential volunteers should have opportunity to state their specific commitment time wise such as how many hours per week or month and the specific tasks they are willing provide. Lois, Emily and Rod will meet to do further thinking on this. We should realistically expect to have some sort of initial program in place by September.
- 7. Liability Issues**—Participation on the board and providing volunteers to come into homes raise liability issues for LD. Should volunteers be bonded? Do we need to do background and criminal checks? Del suggested that we invite Wayne Parsil, a retired attorney, to a future meeting to address these issues. Del believes that Mr. Parsil would be able to make some common sense recommendations to us without encouraging us to purchase insurance that would be unaffordable.
- 8. Two Tier Membership**—Del reported on a conversation that he had with a couple of members who suggest we consider a two tier membership fee: a base level fee that would include participation in social and educational events and a second level that would also include such things as in home volunteer services, chore assistance and companionship.
- 9. Future LD Leadership**—Rod reminded board that his time table for moving into Lancaster is still some years in the future and his involvement in maintenance of his country property consumes much time and creative energy. For the good of the organization he asked that board members think about finding a new board president. He also acknowledged his lack of skills and experience needed to provide leadership to a new non-profit with lots of growth potential. Rod is very interested in staying involved with activities such as webmaster, membership etc.
- 10. Next Meeting**—Board will not meet in July. Next meeting will be August 12.

Recorded by Rod Houser