

Lancaster Downtowners Board Meeting

August 12, 2009

Minutes

Present: Rod Houser, Mimi Shapiro, Bob Ibold, Del Seitz, Mary Lou Higgs, Nancy B. Rogers, Joni Soost.

Absent: Emily Booker, Ken Nissley

Meeting facilitated by Rod Houser

1. **June Minutes**—Correction on members present: Mary Lou Higgs and Mimi Shapiro were also present. Jim Kalish was not.
2. **Treasurers Report**—Del reported balance of \$2790.87. We received five new memberships(\$240.00) since June board meeting and \$50 donation. Office expenses during that time totaled \$104.85. Del received advice from Harry Booker that as long as our income is less than \$25,000, we do not need to file a 990. There is a simple short form that we should be filing. Filing for 501(c)3 can be a long process but Del recommends that we begin to work in that direction. There is not a two year limit beyond date of incorporation for beginning the filing process.

Rod gave Del a copy of our Articles of Incorporation and the bylaws that were approved by the board at time of incorporation. Del and Mary Lou briefly reviewed the bylaws and agreed that significant changes need to be made. Del and Mary Lou will prepare recommendations for next meeting.

Del is using form letter provided by Rod to send thank you responses to donors.

3. Reports/Updates

- a. Shanon Solva-Reid from Community Foundation has invited representatives from Downtowners to meet with her to provide an update on the state of our organization. Rod and Emily are working with her to come up with a date in September.
 - b. PA state Senator Lloyd Smucker has invited representatives to meet with him in September. Rod indicated our interest and is awaiting an invitation to set a specific date.
 - c. Board has interest in becoming involved with the emerging Village to Village Network. *(Since meeting, Rod circulated an announcement of a seminar/workshop to be held on D.C. late October.)*
4. **Board Transitions**—Del Seitz moved, and Nancy Rogers seconded that we regretfully accept resignations of Lois Good and Jim Kalish from Downtowners Board. Motion carried. Rod moved and Del seconded that we welcome Bob Ibold to Downtowners Board. Motion carried.
 5. **Membership**—Rod sent out renewal letters to July and August membership cycle. September/October will be a large group. Nancy suggested that the renewal letters and stamped addressed envelopes be brought to September board meeting so that board members can add personal notes to persons they know. We may also include a brochure with the renewal letter that members can use to share information with potential members. Bob added that we can also send the brochure pdf to persons as a way of providing information.
 6. **Social Events**—At least 45 people attended the social event at the Roger home in June and Rod expects 28 people to attend the Peruvian dinner event Thursday, August 13. These numbers suggest that members really do enjoy connecting with each other in social settings.
 7. **Volunteer Project**—Lois Good had indicated interest in giving some leadership to working with the volunteer project initiated by Beth Lichty. Since Lois is no longer able to work with that we need to look for interest and leadership in moving ahead. Rod will take copies of the proposal to the Peruvian dinner event and try to solicit interest.
 8. **Fall Membership Meeting**—October 12 has been set as a date for fall membership meeting with 13, 14 and 15 as back up dates. Rod will check availability of Mulberry Art Studio. Theme for the evening will be “Health Care Reform: What it means to you.” We discussed having one speaker or a panel. Mary Lou will check archives of WITF Smart Talk for possible resources. Nancy will check with AARP and Senator Casey and Spector offices. Dr. Holmes Martin, who works with Amish clients and speaks on the effects of insurance industry practices on communities like the Amish who choose not to have health insurance, was suggested as a possible future speaker. Nancy will communicate with Rod as soon as she has some direction on a speaker. We want to announce the meeting to members within the next two weeks.
 9. **Interest Survey**—Question was raised as to the value of surveying our membership concerning their interest for future programming and/or benefits from Downtowners. Rod pointed out that we already have a considerable set of information from survey’s that members completed when they enrolled and suggested that before we do additional surveys, we should make a summary of this information available to members. We could prepare such a summary for our fall membership meeting and invite members to suggest additional areas of interest.
 10. **Leadership**—At our June meeting there was some discussion about inviting a high profile person like former mayor Art Morris to provide leadership for Lancaster Downtowners. Rod also noted that Jane Phillips who was on the executive committee before she left two years ago for Okinawa will back in Lancaster and that we need to meet with her to find out what leadership interest she may have. We agreed that before we consider conversation with someone like Art Morris we need to include Jane in the discussion.
 11. **Next Meeting**—Next meeting will be September 9.

Recorded by Rod Houser