

Old Town Battle Ground Association
Minutes of the Regular Meeting April 9, 2008

1

In Attendance:

Diane Harris, OTBGA Vice President
Nola Cross, OTBGA Secretary
Mik Harden, member (Battle Ground Printing)
John Hopper, member (Hopper's Martial Arts)
Dave Miller, member (Miller Insurance)
Jill Kurtz, member (Jackson, Jackson and Kurtz Attorneys)
Jannet Higgins, visitor (First Indy bank)

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Judy Ost was unable to attend the meeting. No report.

Old Business:

Membership Update and Correction: The minutes of the last meeting contain a misprint. There were 12, not 22, Supporting Members paid as of that date. Since then we've added a few new members for a total of 32 Regular Members and 13 Supporting Members paid to date. Nola provided an updated list to Diane and will mail copies to Judy and Dan.

Spring Event Update: The committee has firmed up plans for a May 10th event in Old Town. Merchants are encouraged to hold open houses or sales and promotions and provide flowers and chocolates for mothers, since the following day is Mother's Day. As we move into Spring, businesses might want to help brighten up Old Town by spiffing up their exteriors, displaying balloons and/or hanging flower baskets. We will once again have flower baskets available to purchase. The baskets will come from BiZi Farm this year and will be bigger and more varied than last year's baskets. They will cost OTBGA \$30 each and we will sell them for \$35 to cover costs of delivering. Delivery will be done by May 5th. Let Dan know by April 16th: 1) if you'd like a flower basket, and 2) whether you plan to open your business for special sales or promotions on May 10th. It was moved and seconded that we use \$200 to purchase ad space in the Reflector to advertise the event. A flier with all the info has been created and is being distributed to Old Town businesses. We also hope to incorporate some type of mural dedication or announcement in this event.

Mural Update: Plans are proceeding to bring "Snapshots in Time" to the Andersen Dairy building. Right now donations total about \$1500, with an initial goal of \$10,000 in the next two months. This amount will provide the funds to get the tan base coat done and the doors painted, hopefully by Harvest Days. (The total budget for the project is estimated at \$30,000.) A flier is being created and committee members will be distributing them to Battle Ground businesses in a walk-about on April 17th. We discussed our non-profit status and how that affects donations. The idea was introduced that we could ally ourselves with a 501-C-3 group already in existence, such as the Art Alliance or Rotary Club, so that we'd be eligible for grants. The committee will consider this further. It was pointed out that sponsors can still write off donations as an advertising expense, since all sponsors will be recognized at least in print; sponsors donating \$500 or more will have a plaque on the building and will perhaps be able to choose a photo. Stay tuned for more updates.

New Business:

Harvest Days: Mik Harden, chairman of the Harvest Days entertainment committee, filled us in on plans for this year's festivities. Because of ongoing construction of the Community Events Building at Fairground Park, virtually all HD activities have been relocated to BG Village, including the carnival, entertainment, vendor booths, car show and beer garden. Even the parade

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2

has been rerouted to flow east all the way to Grace Avenue and turn south there, ending at BG Village as well. The idea is to provide a “country fair” type event, playing up that our own Fairgrounds Park was the original site of Clark County fairgrounds. Since moving the events to BG Village will probably have a negative impact on Old Town business revenues, we discussed having an OTBGA booth again at the Village, providing a venue for Old Town businesses to offer coupons and fliers. We may also want to involve ourselves more this year in the Planting of the Rose event in our Central Park on the Thursday prior to Harvest Days. In addition, we may want to watch HD plans for next year, and lobby to have festivities returned to Fairground Park.

National Night Out: Plans are already in the works for this year’s National Night Out in August. John Hopper filled us in. This year, in addition to the barbeque and fire trucks, a scavenger hunt in Old Town businesses is planned for children. This will be a great opportunity to showcase our businesses. We discussed moving the venue a little bit west in order to include the mural, as well as holding raffles to support the mural. It’s not too early to be thinking about how we can take advantage of this great family event.

North Clark County Business Expo: Bonnie Gilberti was scheduled to speak to us about the upcoming business expo on May 29th. Sponsored by the cities of Battle Ground, Ridgefield and LaCenter, the expo is an opportunity to showcase Clark County to businesses considering locating here. For more information, visit the website: www.2008bizoppexpo.com

Next Regular Meeting Scheduled for: Wednesday, June 11, 2008 at 7:30 am at Old Town Battle Grounds Coffeehouse in Old Town.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Nola Cross, association secretary