

Old Town Battle Ground Association
Minutes of the Regular Meeting 6/11/08

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In Attendance:

Dan Mueller, OTBGA President (*Paper Moon*)
Diane Harris, OTBGA Vice-President (*Old Town Battle Grounds*)
Nola Cross, OTBGA Secretary (*Battle Ground Computers*)
Judy Ost, OTBGA Treasurer (*Express Tax*)
Bonnie Gilberti, City of Battle Ground
Kara McGhee, Mural Artist
Jill Kurtz, Mural Committee (*Jackson, Jackson and Kurtz*)
Curtis Miller, Mural Committee (*Darby Rural*)
Jane Wulff, Member
Rob Porter, Member (*Morton's Stove, Pool and Spa*)

Treasurer's Report:

After making payment to Kara McGhee to get started on the mural, we have:

Checking: \$1,999.50

Savings: \$916.22

Judy reminded us that the majority of dues have come in for the year and we won't be seeing much general income flowing in until next winter's membership drive. We do plan to have raffles going during Harvest Days and National Night Out, with proceeds going to the mural fund. Dan remarked that he usually considers the money in the checking account as being used for general purposes and the savings account as being used for the mural; we may need to move money from checking to savings to cover mural expenses as we go.

Old Business:

The flower baskets that were delivered the first week of May were generally disappointing: we were expecting something fuller and larger. Dan passed on the merchant comments to BiZi Farms, who supplied the baskets, and they elected to replace them at no additional cost. The new baskets are much nicer. We'll give BiZi a free spot ad in the next newsletter as a thank you. Because the last two years of trying to orchestrate a basket program have not worked out so well, we decided that next year we'll let each merchant handle their own basket buying. Perhaps we can find a nursery who will give OTBGA members a discount.

Dan talked recently with Dean Sutherland of Clark PUD about larger flower baskets that could be mounted on the PUD poles. Initially, the PUD had given us a firm no, but Dean said that as long as the baskets were considered "temporary", he might be able to make it work. We'll look at this for next year. Paying for and installing hangers and arranging for watering and care are all issues that would need to be addressed.

The Andersen Dairy Mural Project continues to move forward! Donations now total more than \$5,000. Members of the Mural Committee met last night with the Lewis River Rotary Club to request a donation. The Rotary's board will meet Thursday and will consider the request. The Mural Committee is making a presentation to the Kiwanis's Club tomorrow night and it is expected they will also become a sponsor, as well as Dick's Tire. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 by the end of June. Kara spoke about the photo selection process. She has realized that in order for the progression of photos to appear in a logical time sequence, most of them will need to be selected fairly soon. We'll leave just a few spots open for select sponsor's choices. Also, one of the upcoming raffle prizes will be to have your face painted into the mural somewhere. (This is a popular idea in today's meeting.)

Dan mentioned that the City of Battle Ground has been a great partner in the mural project. Not only did they decide not to consider the mounted panels to fall under sign ordinance guidelines, but they even refunded our \$150 application fee. They are considering the mural to be "public art".

Curtis announced that Andersen's has decided to donate the cost of the labor to paint the building and towers, if we can get the paint and scaffolding or boom donated. This is a major donation, as labor is estimated to be about \$15,000. Cost is high because spray painting techniques cannot be used and because

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of the odd shape of the towers. (Painting the towers accounts for about 80% of the estimated labor costs.) Dan said Miller Paint will probably donate at least part of the paint, so hopefully we won't be much out of pocket to get the base coat on the building.

Curtis has found a photographer to document the project as it progresses. Jane volunteered to do what she could to morally support the project. She brought before-and-after photos of Central Park to remind us of what a community can do to make something happen. Dan has stacks of old cancelled checks and stock certificates from the Dairy Co-op that were found in the attic of the Value Giant building. We can have as many as we want if we can find a use for them. Perhaps we can find the descendants of those families or use them as thank yous to mural sponsors. Maybe we can use them artistically in some way...

New Business

For Harvest Days this year, the only planned activity is to set up a booth on Judy's lawn during the parade to advertise the Mural Project and run the raffle. We talked about doing a garage sale on one of the other days, but nobody seemed very excited about getting it organized.

Bonnie Gilberti talked with us about National Night Out, which will be on Tuesday, August 5th. As before, there will be safety demos, live music and free barbeque. There was a discussion about extending the western boundary past the dairy so folks could stroll by the developing mural and visit the raffle booth. Bonnie said that perhaps they could reconfigure the waiting lines for the barbeque. There is also the possibility that the eastern boundary will be brought back to Clark instead of Grace, so that the demos are not so spread out. If we have any publicity stuff we want her to include in the City's printed brochure, we need to have it to her by July 11th. The only thing we have planned is a business-to-business scavenger hunt being organized by John Hopper. (We would want to make sure that any business participating in the hunt is inside the event boundaries in order to provide a traffic-safe environment for the kids doing the hunt.)

Bonnie mentioned that the recent Economic Development Conference went well and the tours what came through Battle Ground thought that Old Town showed well. Bonnie also announced a new Parks Director, Debbie Hansen, who is very interested in the history of our parks. Nola asked about reintroducing the topic of planting a permanent Christmas Tree in Fairgrounds Park, perhaps close to the community events building. Bonnie said this topic has been discussed by City planners. Ideas for a site have included Fairgrounds Park, Central Park and BG Village. She suggested we send her an email with our input. Now is the time to bring this up.

Dan mentioned that there would be a meeting at City Hall tonight, June 11th, to discuss the proposed animated electronic sign to be placed at the intersection of 503 and Main. The sign would replace the old broken signage representing the BG service clubs and provide for community announcements. Right now, city ordinance does not allow animated signs. Local input is appreciated.

Dan announced that the SW Washington Visitor's Center annual publication will be published later this summer. We have until August to decide if we want a group ad. Space on one full page (\$2,300-\$2,400) could be divided into eight business ads at a reasonable price per ad. If you have a business that caters to tourists, you might consider advertising. Contact Dan if interested.

We decided that since we have so much going on, we should meet in July instead of waiting until August. So the next meeting will be Wednesday, July 9th at 7:30 am at Old Town Battle Grounds coffee house.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Nola Cross, association secretary.