

Old Town Battle Ground Association
Minutes of the Regular Meeting, July 1, 2009

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In Attendance:

Dan Mueller, *President OTBGA*
Diane Harris, *Vice President OTBGA*
Nola Cross, *Secretary OTBGA*
Judy Ost, *Treasurer OTBGA*
Mike Ciraulo, *City of Battle Ground*
Robert Maul, *City of Battle Ground*
Debbi Hansen, *City of Battle Ground*
Sam Cummett, *City of Battle Ground*
Bonnie Gilberti, *City of Battle Ground*
Jill Kurtz, *Jackson, Jackson and Kurtz*
Marilyn Ray, *Cupola Gallery*
Todd McArthur, *Starting Grounds*
Nancy Iannarone, *NW Accounting Professionals*
Donna Graham, *NW Accounting Professionals*
Jane Wulff, *Member*
Buck Heidrick, *Citizen*

Treasurer's Report

Checking balance: \$2,344.74
Savings balance:

Old Business

An accounting of **mural funds** raised/spent was required by The Lewis River Rotary as a condition of their donation. During the accounting an error was found. To date, the correct total spent on the project is \$12,377.94. Of this total, only \$498.94 came from OTBGA general fund, with the balance coming from funds specifically raised for the mural. It will take about \$17,000.00 to complete the mural, which is the artist's fee. We do not want to owe her for work completed, so we need to raise at least part of this balance before she goes ahead with more work. Funds raised at the Harvest Days Garage Sale will all go toward the mural. The sale will be held on Judy Ost's lawn from 8:00 to 2:00 on Saturday July 18th. So far, 6 people have signed up to have a table there, at \$20.00 per person. These outside vendors will need to remove their own unsold merchandise. Unsold merchandise donated to OTBGA will go to charity.

New Business

Diane Harris says that she has been talking with Old Town business owners about the opportunities available with **Harvest Days once again locating in Old Town**. There is a general sense of excitement about it. Besides the traditional Saturday parade and car show afterwards, there will be the aforementioned garage sale and a half marathon on Sunday morning. On Thursday night a family movie will be shown in Fairgrounds Park, with the beer garden opening Friday evening.

Bonnie Gilberti then spoke with us about **National Night Out coming up on Tuesday August 4th**. As last year, the East Main Street blocks between Grace and 4th Street will be closed. In the past, the theme focused more on "safety". This year, the event is more about building a sense of community. Today is the last day for exhibitors to let Bonnie know that they will be participating. She liked the **Passport game** idea we did last year, and suggested that the game card could be printed on the back of the main promotional mailer the City sends out on July 28th. In order to make that happen, she would need all the clues for participating businesses from Dan by the 14th. She suggested we could split the cost of printing, based on what we spent last year to print. (Last year's printing was 100% donated by BG Computers.) Robert Maul reminded us that any outside vendors (non-Old Town businesses) would need to purchase a **temporary use permit** to set up any kind of booth or cart at National Night Out.

Jane Wulff announced that **Battle Ground Cultural Task Force** is now up and running and will be a visible presence at both Harvest Days and National Night Out.

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Mayor Mike then talked to us about **A Season of Service**, a community action movement that started with churches in Portland. Typical projects might be picking up litter, clearing streams, assisting the elderly or disabled with painting and gardening, etc. We will start in Battle Ground, but Mike hopes to go to neighboring communities in coming years. It's all about spreading good will and love, not getting credit for doing good deeds. In fact, Mike's one requirement is that no one gets credit for the work done. If interested in participating or helping to organize, the first meeting is tonight, July 1st, at 7:00 pm.

Robert Maul then talked more about the **Revitalization Project** that had been brought up last meeting. The City is very interested in having OTBGA businesses participate, as we are a main stakeholder in how the project unfolds. With so many diverse entities involved – business owners, property owners, residents, other citizens -- it is challenging to get organized and collect representative ideas about how it should go. The City is interested in using a “Main Street” approach, with possible ideas ranging from small projects like flower baskets to more ambitious undertakings like creating an architectural theme for the area, a la Leavenworth. The impact of reorienting the Grace/Main intersection and the railroad also need to be taken into consideration. The Council will introduce the program at the meeting on July 20th. The City would like to meet with us before that if possible.

Buck Heidrick, recently retired from years as a city project planner, volunteered his services in helping to organize and plan the revitalization project(s). Mr Heidrick oversaw such projects as moving OMSI from Washington Park to the waterfront.

Marilyn Ray said she would love to be the OTBGA “marketing person”, kind of an ambassador at large to new businesses in Old Town. Dan accepted her offer gratefully.

A delicious lunch of assorted burritos was provided by **The Burrito Shop**, now open in Old Town Battle Ground.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Nola Cross, association secretary.