

*Old Town Battle Ground Association
Minutes of the Regular Meeting, September 10, 2008*

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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 Service*)
Jill Kurtz, Mural Committee, (*Jackson, Jackson and Kurtz*)
John Hopper, NNO Committee, (*Hopper's Martial Arts*)
Louise Tucker, OTBGA Member
Jane Wulff, OTBGA Member
Elaine Hertz, *North County Community Food Bank*
Eric Johnson, *Vancouver Voice*
Mike Ciraulo, *Mayor, City of Battle Ground*
Debbi Hanson, *Parks Department, City of Battle Ground*
John Williams, *City of Battle Ground*

Treasurer's Report:

Current Checking Balance: \$686.11, after paying United Rentals for lift
Current Savings Balance: \$917.49

We reviewed the highlights of the 2008 budget:

Dues Collected: \$2210.00
Mural Funds Collected: \$5044.00
Miscellaneous Income: \$420.00
TOTAL INCOME: 7674.00

Total expenses at this point approximately total our income, with mural expenses currently exceeding the specific mural project budget. This will change as soon as we receive the \$5000 donation check from Lewis River Rotary, which is literally in the mail to us at this point. Dan reiterated that any funds specifically donated for the mural will go to the mural expenses.

Old Business:

Kara has been working hard on the **Old Town Mural at Andersen Dairy**, and in the past few days has begun mounting the artwork. The large door is also partially painted. In the next few days the tanks will be painted to look like silos. The Reflector newspaper came and took pictures of the visible progress. Total collected (including the Lewis River Rotary check) is about \$10,200. Dan stated that even though we received more in-kind donations than we had expected, the remaining amount needed in cash is still about \$25,000, mainly because we want to set up a maintenance and repair fund. (We agreed with Andersen to maintain the mural for ten years.)

We reviewed the results of **National Night Out**. According to John Williams from the City, we had about 3,000 participants total. The passports we printed worked really well. The kids seemed to really enjoy the game and it gave businesses new exposure. We printed about 800 passports and passed out all but about 50. But the passport station was pretty busy and the mural donation raffle kind of got lost in the shuffle. Next year we should set up a separate station for receiving the passports back. More volunteers are really what we need. There is a rumor that NNO might be moved to September next year, with the heat playing a major factor (it was 97° this year on Main Street). There is also a rumor that it may be moved further east to incorporate the Community Center and Fairgrounds Park. It was pointed out that much of the charm of the event is in walking down the closed off street and using Central Park. Mike Ciraulo suggested that any input we have about next years' location should be presented in a letter to the City from OTBGA as a group.

New Business:

It is time once more for election of OTBGA officers. Nominations are now open and will be announced in the newsletter and on the website. Election will be held at the November meeting. All presently serving officers have agreed to run for another term. Anyone interested in serving should feel free to step up, as we do want to increase the active volunteer base of our organization.

Dan brought up the idea of emailing the Lamp Post newsletter to all the businesses we have email addresses for. This will save us print and mailing costs of about 70 cents per copy. We will still need to mail to property owners, bulk mail recipients and folks we don't have email addresses for. We'll provide an opt-out for anyone who would rather still receive a paper copy. Everyone liked the idea.

Elaine Hertz from the North County Community Food Bank proposed the idea of holding a progressive dinner fund raiser in Old Town. Tentatively scheduled for early October 2009, the event would start out at the Community Center. Folks could then stroll down East Main, stopping at participating businesses for appetizers, entrees, wine, etc., and ending back at the Center for dessert. A shuttle bus should be available for those who may not want or be able to walk the route. The dinner would progress in whatever order the diners choose; a map showing participating locations and their food offering would be available to diners. Participating businesses would donate the cost of the food they served; the NCCFB would keep the funds raised from ticket sales. Weather issues and health department concerns were discussed. There is a lot of time to work out details, but for now we all agreed it is a good idea that will give Old Town lots of exposure, and we told Elaine we wanted to participate.

Eric Johnson, co-founder of the Vancouver Voice visited with us. He wanted us to know that the Voice is growing and hopes to become a bi-weekly and then weekly newspaper. In October they will be doing a three page feature on Battle Ground. Any advertising or press releases/story ideas need to be to him by September 17th. Dan will email submission info to Old Town businesses this week. Eric said he is always looking for story ideas, so let him know of anything new in your businesses.

Jane Wulff brought up the recent controversy over the naming of the Community Center, which has now been officially named The Battle Ground Community Center. Some citizens are upset that – after the City called for suggestions – a generic name was chosen. Apparently the majority of the name suggestions submitted were for Everett Eaton, former BG notable, who took a personal interest in Fairgrounds Park. But the Parks Board recommended BGCC and the City went with that. Mike Ciraulo commented that there is a movement afoot to possibly rename 199th Street after Mr. Eaton.

Jane and Mike also talked briefly about the new Cultural Task Force which the City has set up in response to an incidence of racially biased emails being sent to a member of the City Council. A Resolution has been drafted and the Task Force will be meeting soon with local students. Contact Jane if you would like further information; the meetings are open to all.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Nola Cross, Association Secretary on 9/11/08.