

# **Friends of Fourth Ward Board Meeting Minutes – February 23, 2015**

## **Present:**

Boyd Holland, David Haynes, Rob Cummings, Patrick Long, Stephen Ricks, Tara McElroy, Jeremy Baldwin, Steven Hailey, Keenya Justice

## **Also present:**

Megan Liddle Gude (Charlotte Center City Partners), Diane Restaino (resident), Mike Restaino (president emeritus), V.K. Simpson (CMPD)

Boyd Holland called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM

## **Board Introductions**

The board welcomed new member Steven Hailey and Jeremy Baldwin.

## **Jodedance Festival**

Diane Restaino presented to the board a history and the mission of the Joedance Film Festival which is based and held in Fourth Ward. Joedance screens original films created by Charlotte area filmmakers and sends all proceeds to the Levine Children's Hospital in support of rare pediatric cancers.

Diane would like the Friends of Fourth Ward to sponsor the red carpet night held the second night of the Joedance Film Festival. Diane proposed a \$5,000 gift to provide billing on Uptown kiosks as well as exposure through social media, tickets to the Red Carpet event, and tickets to both nights of the Joedance Film Festival. FoFW last gave \$3,000 in 2014. The board discussed moving the proposal to the community outreach committee to discuss in context with other charitable requests.

## **Security Update**

V.K. Simpson updated the board on the state of safety and security. Larceny from auto is down, but we are seeing an increase in the vagrant population who are often times looking for a warm place to sleep in an automobile. We've had one residential break-in this year – Keenya's home was burglarized and cash/an iPad were taken. V.K. emphasized performing a security check on entrances to the home to ensure homes are not an easy theft target. Chris Connolly continues to perform a public service by following up on crime incidents in the neighborhood. The board will be providing off-duty police officers for the CIAA tournament to be held later this week.

## **Charlotte Center City Partners**

Megan provided an update for the community. Three weeks from now, the St. Patrick's Day parade will be held. The Housing First initiative is ongoing well and roughly 450 chronically homeless persons have been identified.

Charlotte Center City Partners are hosting a state of the city meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Megan offered to assist the board in setting up a table for the board to inform homeowners of the Fourth Ward with the organization.

Pinewood/Elmwood Cemetery usages are still on the radar for ways to utilize this public space.

The First Ward board is in a state of rebirth. Megan advised that we can partner with them to get the word out on our community events.

Megan also advised the board that additional funds were likely available from CCCP for our walking tour initiative. CCCP had previously committed \$2,000 toward our efforts.

## **Garden Tour**

The Garden Tour will not be held in 2015 and is scheduled to be held again in 2016. Low inventory on gardens lends itself to a more sporadic schedule. Heath Knott will be stepping down as chair.

## **Budget Discussion**

Rob presented the 2015 proposed budget for the board. The board reviewed the income/expense budget proposals on a line by line basis. The board approved the proposed budget unanimously.

\$6,000 is proposed to be allocated to the social committee. The board approved the proposal unanimously.

## **Walking Tour Update**

Gau submitted an update presented via David for our walking tour initiative. A new trifold handout has been designed along with an updated kiosk form and an updated website format. The board discussed criterion for entry into the walking tour. The board proposed deciding on criterion in the next meeting after further thought. Discussion on additional spend has been postponed.

## **Membership Drive**

David and Patrick have been looking to increase membership. The committee is looking to increase awareness of the benefits of membership. The committee wants to start a membership drive in March with signs around the neighborhood as well as sending out a

newsletter geared toward membership.

Three membership levels are suggested on the website to allow members to donate as they see fit. The committee is currently starting conversations with multi-family housing units to increase membership dues.

### **Communications Committee**

Boyd is the sole member of the communications committee. Jeremy, Tara, and Stephen volunteered to assist Boyd with communications. Boyd called for any upcoming events to be sent his direction.

### **Lighting/Parking request**

A request came in for more lighting on 7<sup>th</sup> street. Megan said she is willing to assist the board with working with CDoT and Brian to look at adding lights.

A request centered around parking on Settlers Lane came in. Stephen offered to work with the resident to address their concerns.

### **Presidential recognition**

The board voted to approve a brick for past FoFW presidents to honor their service to the community. Motion was unanimously approved.

Boyd Holland adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Stephen Ricks