

Friends of the Ypsilanti Freighthouse
Board of Trustees Meeting
April 21, 2009

Approved Minutes

- I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Co-Chair Bonnie Penet.
- II. Attendance
Board Members Present: Bonnie Penet, Nathalie Edmunds, Ron Rupert, Linda French, Edward Penet, Lesley Chace, Martha Kern-Boprie

Board Members Absent: Ruth Spiers, Steve Gross, David Wheeler, Norris Stephens

Others Present: Henry Zelisse, Casey Kozlowski, Elizabeth Marshall, Brenda Rigdon
- III. Approval of Minutes
It was moved by Ron Rupert and supported by Linda French that the minutes of 03/17/09 be approved as drafted. The motion carried.
- IV. Treasurer's Report
Balances in FOYF bank accounts at 4/20/09 were:
Checking \$ 546.38
Savings \$2,977.49
\$3,523.87 total cash on hand
It was moved by Edward Penet and supported by Martha Kern-Boprie to receive the Treasurer's Report dated 4/20/09.
- V. Change in Agenda
It was moved by Ron Rupert and supported by Martha Kern-Boprie that the agenda be modified by adding Public Comment before Announcements. The motion carried.
- VI. Old Business
 - A. Grant Updates
Architectural/Engineering Drawings Update
Brenda Rigdon, architect with the JDI Group provided an update on the progress of the architectural and engineering drawings. MDOT needs the drawings by mid-July. The present deadline for JDI Group is 6/12/09. Structural Stabilization includes walls, roof, mechanical, electricity and lighting systems; all included in JDI's designs. Capacity for solar system will be designed. The heating system will be based on geo-thermal.

A special FOYF board meeting will probably be necessary in May to make final design decisions.

AAACF Grant Update
AAACF awarded \$103,300 to pay for architectural & engineering drawings, at their board meeting on 3/19/09. Phil D'Anieri of the AAACF reported that AAACF looks forward to assisting FOYF with completing the Freighthouse project, and sent the following statement to the FOYF Board:
AAACF and our affiliate, the Ypsilanti Area Community Fund, are looking forward to working together with FOYF until this project is completed, including ongoing staff time, support from our Board members, etc.
We will help secure additional funding from other foundations. I think there are a

handful of excellent prospects for major (\$100K plus) grants to complete all necessary physical work and provide start-up operating cash. We can also help with fundraising strategy, building board capacity, etc. Helping FOYF get the Freighthouse re-opened is one of the top priorities in AAACF's strategic plan, so we really are committed to making the grant dollars be the start of our partnership, not the end. We will look to you all to let us know what would be the most helpful.

Lesley Chace suggested a reception to thank AAACF. Lesley will lead a committee to plan the reception. Date of the reception to be determined.

MDOT/Stimulus Grant Update

The State of Michigan awarded \$500,000 in federal Stimulus Funding to the City of Ypsilanti to restore the Freighthouse. Governor Granholm presented the award on 4/10/09. Kent Early has been hired by the City of Ypsilanti to help administer this grant as a consultant.

- B. Ann Arbor – Detroit Rail Stop
Councilmember Peter Murdock sent a detailed email concerning SEMCOG ideas pertaining to the rail stop. These ideas included maintenance building needs.

VII. New Business

- A. Grants Committee Report

Elizabeth Marshall reported that Susan Campbell will chair this committee. Each committee member will research a few grant opportunities. The next meeting of the Grants Committee is 11:00 am 4/26/09 at Ron Rupert's house.

- B. Fundraising Committee

Linda French reported another FullFreight Banjo type event was considered until the Ypsitucky Fest secured all the performers. Linda French plans to resign from the Fundraising Committee because of commitments to help the Heritage Auto Museum with fundraising. Several board members suggested holding small fundraisers.

- C. Board Member Attendance

Martha Kern-Boprie reviewed the board member attendance expectations contained in FOYF By-Laws. She distributed a table that indicated board member absences from board meetings in the past 13 months. Several board members have missed more than the two unexcused absences in one year that are permitted by FOYF By Laws. The FOYF Board is likely to take action on this violation of By Laws at a future board meeting.

- D. New Board Members

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Nathalie Edmunds to appoint Casey Kozlowski to the FOYF Board as trustee. The motion carried.

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Ron Rupert to appoint Casey Kozlowski as FOYF Treasurer. The motion carried.

It was moved by Edward Penet and supported by Martha Kern-Boprie to appoint Susan Campbell to the FOYF board as trustee. The motion carried.

E. FOYF Participation in Ypsilanti Pride Day

Ypsilanti Pride Day is 5/16/09. Board members suggested that flowers could be planted around the Freighthouse, but there is no water on site to irrigate them with. No firm plans were made for Ypsilanti Pride Day participation.

VIII. Public Participation

Henry Zelisse spoke on behalf of the Depot Town Farmers Market Vendors. He congratulated FOYF on the Stimulus funding awarded to the Freighthouse repair. He also informed the FOYF board that the Depot Town Farmers Market will open on 4/25/09. Police Officer Tony Schembri and his police dog Buki will give a demonstration during opening day at the market. The Depot Town Farmers Market Vendors would like Jeff Adkins to represent their organization. Linda French responded that she thought it would be more effective if Karl Baer, president of the vendors association represented the vendors at FOYF meetings. Mr. Zelisse agreed to provide email contact information for Jeff Adkins and Karl Baer to Martha Kern-Boprie

Edward Penet announced plans to mark parking for the Depot Town Farmers Market.

IX. Adjournment

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Ron Rupert to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 pm. The motion carried.

Submitted by:

Martha Kern-Boprie – Board Trustee & Secretary