

Friends of the Ypsilanti Freighthouse
Board of Trustees Meeting
June 16, 2009

Approved Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Bonnie Penet at 7:02 pm.

II. Attendance

Board Members Present: Nathalie Edmunds, Bonnie Penet, Martha Kern-Boprie, Susan Campbell, Linda French, Ruth Spiers, Edward Penet, Ron Rupert, Casey Kozlowski, David Wheeler

Board Members Absent: Norris Stephens, Steven Gross

Others Present: Denise Slone, Greg Marker, Tom Steinkellner, Andrea Linn, Hal Wolfe

Board members and guests were introduced to one another.

III. Approval of Minutes of May 19, 2009

It was moved by Ron Rupert and supported by Edward Penet that the minutes of 5/19/09 be approved with noted corrections. The motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Casey Kozlowski reviewed her report with board members. A new checking account was opened 5/29/09 for the sole purpose of fundraising activity. An initial donation of \$500.00 was deposited in it.

The primary FOYF checking account will move to Fifth Third Bank. This was done for several reasons, including the convenience of having this account at the same bank as our online service and because we will avoid several service charges placed by our current bank.

The FOYF savings account will close out eventually.

Bank Balances at 6/15/09 are:

Primary Checking	\$ 581.35
Savings	<u>\$2,453.49</u>
	\$3,310.09
Fundraising Checking	<u>\$ 500.00</u>
	\$3,810.09 Total Cash on Hand

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Ruth Spiers to receive the Treasurer's Report. The motion carried.

V. Old Business

A. Grant Update

1. AAACF Architectural/Engineering Drawings Grant Update
Drawings have been reviewed by the Building Committee and will be submitted in time to qualify for Stimulus funding as "shovel ready".

2. MDOT/Stimulus Grant

Nathalie Edmunds reported that the City Manager will arrange a meeting with MDOT staff to clarify all requirements, rules and use of grant funds.

Greg Marker reported that he met with Kent Early, who is grant consultant retained by the City, and provided the following update on this grant.

MDOT Staff assigned to this grant

Michael Smith – Finance

Jan Wiebel – Local Enhancement

Sigrid Bergland – History

Use of Grant Funds

MDOT will not pay for plumbing, electrical, interior work. Structural work will be covered by this grant. Interior work including bathrooms, plumbing and electrical will have to be funded from other sources. Generally floors also have to be funded from other sources, but there is a small possibility the floors could be argued as integral to the structure, and funded with MDOT grant funds.

Contractors

Michael Smith and Jan Wiebel will determine if we can use “non-MDOT pre-qualified contractors” for work on this grant. If we can use them, the bidder pool is expanded. Greg noted that using “non-MDOT pre-qualified contractors” usually increases grant administrative work as well.

Schedule

If the City/FOYF can submit to MDOT for Grade Inspection (GI) by 6/29/09, the project could ultimately be bid by 11/06/09. Money could be obligated by 12/01/09. Once money is obligated, there is no deadline on project completion.

MDOT will review drawings first, then SHPO. Greg recommended having MDOT changes submitted to SHPO, to ensure both agencies concur, before changes are made in the drawings.

Greg said it is possible to specify a sequence of work in the bids, to ensure most complex work is completed first. This can be advantageous to the City/FOYF.

VI. New Business

A. Board Member Removal

Martha Kern-Boprie reviewed the FOYF By-Laws that permit no more than two unexcused absences from FOYF Board Meetings in a year. Norris Stephens and Steven Gross have each missed more than two meetings in 2009, and have not responded to multiple written notices of meetings and telephone reminders of meetings. It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Ron Rupert that Norris Stephens and Steven Gross be removed from the FOYF Board of Trustees due to lack of attendance at board meetings. The motion carried with nine “Yes” votes and one (Linda French) “No” vote.

B. Committee Reports

1. Fundraising Committee – Denise Slone, committee chair reported The Heritage Festival Jazz Happy Hour will be held again this year on Friday evening of the festival. Hal Wolfe has offered to organize this event again, and was present to review details. The event will run from 5:00 to 9:00 pm. Beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages will be sold. Jim Fink is pursuing the temporary liquor license from the state. Live jazz will be played.

Rain Garden Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, August 15. Greg Marker will participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony. Depot Town

Farmers Market vendors are enthused about this event, and showcasing their produce at it.

Wine Sales – Spotted Dog Winery has the logo for the wine labels. Bottled wine will be available for sale in bars by 8/01/09.

Private Home Reception – Denise Slone reported that one of her real estate clients has a newly built exclusive home that he is willing to provide for an upscale fundraising reception, probably in September.

Antique Show/Fall Harvest/Antique Truck Show – on 10/03/09 three similar events will occur near the Freighthouse. The Depot Town Farmers Market Fall Harvest and an Antique Truck Show on Frog Island will take place. The FOYF Fundraising Committee will host an Antiques Appraisal. Jay Schmidt will be retained to provide professional appraisals of antiques. The fee for his service will be donated to FOYF.

2. Grants Committee – Susan Campbell, committee chair reported Susan Campbell reported that she plans to structure FOYF needs to sponsor objectives when making funding requests.
3. Building Committee – this committee's activity was covered in Old Business as grant updates

C. Parade Participation

1. Fourth of July – Ruth Spiers may march. Ed Penet suggested having the Freighthouse Café open to sell snacks during the parade. The parade terminates near Depot Town, and many people are there, that may purchase snacks.
2. Heritage Festival – several people expressed interest in participating in this parade. Martha Kern-Boprie will coordinate FOYF participation.

VII. Announcements

- A. The next FOYF board meeting is Thursday, 7/16/09 at 7:00 pm. The location will be the Ypsilanti Historical Museum at 220 N. Huron Street.
- B. Nathalie Edmunds announced that the EMU Historic Preservation Program was presented with a Michigan Historic Preservation Network award for its preservation of the University's core historic campus.
- C. Linda French reported that she, Ed and Bonnie Penet created a plan for benches, trash cans and bicycle racks. The Depot Town DDA will pay for installation of these benches, trash cans and bicycle racks. Linda also contacted the Sheriff Department to obtain work release staff to clean up and weed the Plaza area. The Downtown and Depot Town DDA organizations may merge.

VIII. Adjournment

It was moved by Linda French and supported by Ron Rupert to adjourn at 8:40 pm. The motion carried.

Submitted by,
Martha Kern-Boprie – Board Member and Secretary