

Old Town Chinatown Community Association

October 14, 2015 Board Meeting

Minutes

Present: Helen, Sarah, Dave, Jessie, Gloria, Evan, Beth, Timothy, Jane, Zach, and Jackie

Absent: Chris, Dan and Jessie

11:30 AM Helen Ying called the meeting to order.

The Minutes from the September 9, 2015 Board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: David Hooff

As of September 30, the total checking balance was \$12,751.76. There were \$6,956.45 in Unrestricted Funds. The District Management Fund L(at NWNW) was \$23,890.50.

Old Business:

Recap of OTCTCA Forum Issues of Concern and Committees to Address Them:

- Security - Livability
- More Retail – cleanliness – Lisa Frisch, Clean and Safe, and Business Committee
- Smell – Clean and Safe - Livability
- Public Safety – Livability
- Lawlessness – Business Committee
- More communication – need a newsletter, on the website - Communications
- More evening meetings, start at 6:00, like the Pearl, or back to back Forums presentations by committees, and then a break out forum where residents can participate: how about every other month at night (Jane, Helen, Sarah, Jackie).

MOTION: To change the monthly general meeting time from day to evening meetings on alternative months for a trial period.

Shifting the schedule of the general OTCTCA meetings to day and evening meetings on alternating months would provide an opportunity for residents and others to attend the general meeting at night. Night meetings would start at 6:00 P.M.

The motion was made by David Houff and seconded by Jackie Peterson. The board vote was 5-4 in favor, with Gloria, Beth, Evan and Zach opposed. David Houff took the Motion off the table. Discussion will resume at the November meeting..

Homelessness and Illegal Camping

Guest: Chad Stover, Mayor Hale's Livability Project Manager. He's been point person on the OTCT street closure, and Alberta Street's Last Thursday and has spent a good chunk of his time here in the last two years.

Stover admits to being as unclear about some things as we are. He pointed to the new Ordinance declaring Homelessness a State of Emergency which was unanimously adopted by the Council. He has talked with people concerned with this issue on the North Blocks, Old Town, now on N. Greeley. He posed two questions: Should the city be responsible? He answered Yes.. What is the city's role? He answered enforcement, zoning, available property (for shelters), and housing (Housing Bureau).

The Declaration of a State of Emergency was declared in part because it allows for flexibility in the zoning code and a more immediate response to the crisis. Stover is part of a group working to create shelters on vacant city land around the city. An example of the kind of buildings they are looking at was a 24,000 square foot building in SW which did not work out. Problem is money. Portland is not getting federal money for this purpose and is looking for a solution to a problem which is larger than the city that the city needs to try to solve. City would like the partnership of the county and the state in devising a multifaceted effort to find innovative ways to create shelters.

Immediately the mayor's office is concentrating on three initiatives to address the problem of homelessness.

- 1) **Streamlining the point of communication at the city.** Currently calls are aimed at multiple bureaus. The mayor's office intends to send all calls to a single person or persons. Not clear how high the traffic is.
- 2) **High intensity street engagement policy** – collaborating with social service providers and police to help people get into shelters earlier. Partners include NARA and Cascadia. This initiative focuses on those living on the street. Its goal is to get 50 people into shelters in the first year.
- 3) **Day storage pilot program.** The program has two locations: one under the Burnside Bridge near Saturday Market and one on the west side near the Hawthorne Bridge. Ryan, Jackie, Sarah, and Jane commented that this initiative contradicted a long standing agreement not to place any more social service agencies or centers in Old Town Chinatown and that the OTCTCA board had not been notified of this decision, despite efforts to meet with Mayor Hales on the issue. Helen agreed to contact the Mayor's office to set up an immediate meeting. Stover indicated that the day centers were to be installed by November.

Jane DeMarco suggests the city look instead to the Utah model. We should not be authorizing the acquisition of more stuff, tents, carts, TVs, etc. which allows people to camp permanently on the sidewalk. The board's sentiment: "Not in our backyard! This is not going to happen." Board agreed to talk further off line about what has become a leadership issue.

District Manager

RAIN is the newly hired District Manager for Old Town Chinatown. David Savinar and AJ attended the board meeting to learn about us as a neighborhood, what work the board is doing and what it hopes to accomplish. They were asked to come prepared to tell us how they are envisioning collecting information for their preliminary analysis.

David Savinar wants to build a stronger community, this is who we think we are, and this is what we believe in. Strategy: get a website, an intranet, a place to discuss who we are. Will talk to the community association, do a survey, and then do interviews with individuals and the OTCTCA subcommittees, so that we can share the information we have already gathered. Jane: David and AV will talk with the heads of committee, and decide if they want to come to the subcommittee meetings. They want to know who are the key stakeholders. Need to create a vocabulary for the donors to assure them that what they thought they were investing in will be provided. Jane will send the email list for the board members and committees and AJ@rainagency.com and David@rainagency.com. First report due at the December 9 general meeting.

Jane, look for a date after April 20 and before December 9 to listen to the first report from RAIN.

Allied Health Services Good Neighbor Agreement to be discussed tomorrow morning at 10:00 AM at CCC basement. Helen also reported that there is neighborhood pushback about the strip club going into the prior Fong Chong restaurant space. A Good Neighbor Agreement is being pursued.

Land Use Committee - Zach

Zach wants us to be more proactive with City Hall. The Board needs to go on record that we do not approve the location of the Day Storage in Old Town based on the long standing agreement to not allow any more social service agencies within the neighborhood.

MOTION: That the Land Use Committee draft a write a letter from the Board to the Mayor reiterating the long standing no loss, no gain policy about Social Services in Old Town and stating our opposition to the location of the Day Storage facility in Old Town. The Motion carried.

A meeting with the Mayor will be sought to discuss the homeless issue and city policy. Zach also said that we need for new design guidelines for the New Chinatown/Japantown National Historic District, we want a more diverse community and do want to see a concentration of certain kind of businesses like the new Hip Sing strip club. We want RAIN to let the print press know that we would like to be contacted as they are developing stories about our neighborhood.

Evan's point was that we want 24/7 businesses,

Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

Jackie Peterson, Secretary>