

Herron-Morton Place Association/Foundation
Joint Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2007

Present:

Association- Tiffany Benedict Berkson (President), Jennifer Jones, Jason Hummel, John Mays, Larry Gregerson, Tom Stark, Becky Ruby
Foundation- Jonathan Chumley (President), Kathy Shouton, Kristin Edmundson, Jill Henry, Janette Smith, Bill Bisson, Jane Root, Jeanne Pontious

- I. Welcome/Intros: Why did you choose downtown/HMP?
- II. Foundation Activities Update
 - a. Park: It was noted that a lot of comments are heard about loving the park. Help with cleaning it up has come this year and things are looking good. More plants coming in the fall! It is the Foundation's hope that every feels the park is an asset. Progress is slowly being made on the markers. Jeanne Pontious noted that the squares could be filled with a flat bluestone cut to fit, as a temporary solution. Jennifer Jones looked into as well and has a landscaper getting a bid together. Tom Stark noted that this sounded like a good plan as the current wood boards are being predominantly used as Frisbees.
 - b. Home Tour: the search is on for the Home Tour 2008 chairs if anyone is interested!
 - c. Membership: Foundation is developing new member levels that may help to get corporations, etc involved. This is not restricted to just getting people in neighborhood involved- want to be able to approach realtors, businesses, legal, etc. Board members can come from this group and do not have to be neighbors and this can also lead to "donated" skills.
 - d. Foundry: As most had realized already, the west end is completely demolished. Article has been written for the Urban Times that goes through the history of the building. The fire during IU's ownership and the neglect from the city afterwards appeared to be the cause of the roof collapse. Even city did not know there was a basement, as a result of that section being so dangerous it was not able to be entered. Foundation has looked into façade grants and were also seeking funding for rehab when collapse occurred. The plans for moving forward are to keep looking at potential tenants, none of which are yet secured. There may be others, but they have not received proposals. Current proposals would all be good neighborhood uses such as "destination" spots- a deli has been proposed.
 - Q. Tiffany Berkson- timeline?
 - A. Jonathan Chumley- if they can secure façade grant and stabilize current buildings. Most likely will sell the west lot to pay off demolition costs. Then, restore other 2 and work with 16th Street for development. As long as they have secured tenant or can show viability they should get funding- timeline is flexible. City gave 36 months.
 - Q. Tom Stark- On west lots, is Walsingham looking for parking?

A. Jonathan- Yes, Walsingham has made an offer to use for parking.

A. Jane Root- Walsingham has also gone through a lot of precarious turnover.

A. Jonathan- Noted that the understanding is Walsingham is moving forward (according to owner). Has every intention of closing on condos before year is out.

A. Kristin Edmunsden- The lender is requiring the parking to keep the funding going

Q. Tiffany- Could we put an Association member on the Foundry committee?

A. Jonathan Chumley- Yes, with the understanding that it is a large time commitment!

Tiffany requested Association volunteer, Larry Gregerson volunteered.

III. Association Activities Update

a. Art Fair was quite successful.

b. There is an election coming up with possibly 5 open spots on the board- if anyone is interested.

IV. Shared issues

a. Increase membership/participation for both (joint opportunities?) Tiffany noted that until we all go out and start knocking on doors, nothing will happen. Jonathan noted that per the HUNI meeting, our assoc. dues appear to be some of the cheapest. A lot of the members seem to be driven by issues, rallying cries, etc. Existence of an issue has to spur the idea that as a group we can do more.

Q. Tiffany- will Foundation be sending out info on the new levels of membership?

A. Jane Root- still exploring the incentives to give, but then yes

Q. Jennifer Jones- about how many members does the Foundation have?

A. Jill Henry- About 25

Tiffany noted that between all the membership entities, something should be figured out. It seems to be the boards plus 10-20 other people who are actually doing stuff in the neighborhood- so let's get more! Tiffany and Jonathan noted that both groups should be talked about when new people move in.

Q. Jane Root- how about having forms on the web?

A. Tiffany- with it being a volunteer update, updates are sporadic. Email Tiffany wish list items like this.

Q. Jill Henry- putting minutes on the website? Having a "what's going on" section? Could send an email that said "minutes have been posted." And is there a place where the two groups can work together to do this?

Q. Jeanne Pontious- could we create a group so that all boards could get emails on hot topics, etc.

Kristin Edmunsden noted that if we did a membership drive week, we could let people know in advance and go door to door. Tiffany voiced support of that idea, and Jill Henry noted that especially when you tell them in advance, it is worth it. Could put the info in the Urban Times.

Jeanne noted that there are always a lot of people at the park who are not familiar- maybe we could try to get people there? Jonathan suggested that instead of a fall cleanup, we do a membership drive. Tiffany noted that at other events, we could have membership tables.

Q. John Mays- could/do we have internet access in the park?

A. Jeanne- will check on that.

John noted that people could then work in the park to meet more neighbors.

- b. Events- no discussion
- c. Infrastructure/ Improvements. Jeanne reminded people to get Foundation involved with projects, committees, etc.
- d. How to work together- no discussion
- e. Frequency of Joint Meetings- 2 per year?
Jeanne noted that it seemed more important to have the working groups meet. Only if there is a need for us all to get together. Jill asked that we do it at least once. Jonathan Chumley asked for volunteers to serve on different committees. Based on watching the ONS association divide, it is very important that we all stick together! Kathy noted that what drives people away is all of the bickering. Tiffany noted that we need to be sensitive to all the projects that are happening. Kathy asked about people knowing in advance.

The meeting was adjourned by Jonathan Chumley and Tiffany Berkson.