

## BRAG Board Minutes--May 13, 2010

**Members Present**—Jane, Joe, Kas, Mike, George, Larry, Scott, Eileen, Alison, Peter, Karen, Ray

- 1) **Great Fermentations request for zoning variance**—This 6+ year old BRAG business on 65<sup>th</sup> Street wants to expand beyond beer and wine making supplies and open a micro-brewing company. A variance is needed to open “Bier Brewery” which will sell ½ gallon containers of beer, kegs, and clothing items only. NO food or bar service will be offered. GACC wrote a letter of support to the downtown zoning commission and the owners are not aware of any opposition to the brewery. Our board voted unanimously to lend our support to the zoning variance.
- 2) **INSTEPP & Pedestrian Access**—Karen, Alison, and Larry have been going to businesses asking for donations for the 71<sup>st</sup> Street Pedestrian Access project. \$3000 has been collected so far from neighborhoods alone. Residents seem to be excited about the prospect, and the group is waiting for promotional/marketing materials to be printed to launch a more concentrated fundraising effort. To date, business support has been disappointing. Blaine talked with us about topography study. There are some utility and infra-structure challenges, but nothing that will be insurmountable. Blaine suggests that our multi-purpose walkway be approximately 6’ wide and be placed as close to the road as possible. We are looking for a fairly straight path but we have some tree/drainage/retaining wall issues to address. Mike and Blaine will walk the area to assess tree blockage. DPW should be able to add the necessary cross walk ramps at the 4 intersections. Other fundraising ideas—having donators buy bricks with their name; Karen asked for, and received, permission to use the BRAG logo in advertising for a Texas Hold ‘Em fundraiser that will take place in a few months.
- 3) **Treasurer’s Report**—Since November, we have collected \$12,095 from the BRAG Membership Campaign. \$3500 is designated for INSTEPP engineering costs, and \$5051 has been collected from Farmer’s Market fees. We should look into matching funds from businesses .
- 4) **Farmer’s Market**—We had a graphic artist volunteer who gave approximately \$1200 worth of donated time to design a stunning new poster for the Farmer’s Market. Postcards, magnets, and new bags will be available this year at the market. The vendor list continues to grow with 50 vendors signed up for the season so far.
- 5) **BRAG Board Manual**—Kas really needs help to pull this off. Please get all requested information to Kas ASAP. A manual is imperative to Alison as she works to raise awareness and funding.
- 6) **Police Sub-Station**—Tom Koppel is the new Commander of the North District and they now want 1100 air cards, instead of WiFi at the stations. We discussed ways to re-allocate the money that has already been donated for this cause, and it was agreed that Erik and Alison should talk with donors who contributed to this fundraiser first and explain the change in direction. Food and drink supplies are diminished at the station. The suggestion was made that once a month we make an appeal for people to drop off supplies for the officers at the Farmer’s Market. The suggestion was made to invite Commander Koppel, and other new area police personnel, to the next community meeting in July.
- 7) **In-kind donations list**--Alison is working up an in-kind list to show when she visits area businesses (i.e. all the mowing contracts, plants from KIBI, etc). All of this needs to be documented.
- 8) **Fundraising**—Everyone on the board needs to dig in and assist.

- A) Alison challenged the board with “the power of ten” asking each board member to get a minimum of (10) \$25.00 annual membership pledges.
  - B) She also needs 100% of the board to make an annual financial contribution to BRAG as prospective donors often ask if our board members donate money, as well as time.
  - C) Suggestion was made that Jane use the new emailing network to solicit membership funds for BRAG. Joe said he would send a similar message through the Crime Watch emails.
  - D) Alison wants to create a fundraising committee and needs people to help.
- 9) **Meeting with Community North Hospital**—Community will become sponsors. Alison submitted a substantial “in-kind Wish List” (i.e. helping us create, print, and distribute a BRAG Business Directory.) We have the OK to use space at Community North for a fundraiser in the future.
- 10) **Beautification**—We had difficulty on April 24<sup>th</sup> as holes were not dug to plant the trees and the ground was excessively hard. Several trees were planted that day and others were planted after the event by Mike, and other volunteers. The ground was softer at the Skiles Test planting site, and they had greater planting success. About 40 more shrubs are due to be planted at Skiles Test Park in the near future. There will be a city-wide Arts in the Park event sometime in October thanks to a grant from GINI. A handful of board members will meet to weed the beds at the Shell Station this Sunday at noon.
- 11) **Next Board Meeting**—Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>

Respectfully Submitted  
Eileen Herr, Secretary