

Preliminary OPA Minutes

5/07/12

Meeting held at Joslyn Park.

Board Members in Attendance

David Auch, Pauline Bohannon, Patty Godon-Tann, Sadat Huq, Jeffrey Jarow, James Lawson, Jan Ludwinski, Mary Marlow, Michele Perrone, Roger Swanson, David Tann, Bob Taylor, Marcy Winograd

Noticed Board Member Absences

Ross Furukawa, Susan Lewis, Lori Nafshun

Introduction to OPA

President Jan Ludwinski called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Announcements

City Council candidate Jerry Rubin urged financial support for the Chain Reaction Paul Conrad sculpture, which the city plans to disassemble if funds are not raised for rehabilitation. Jerry also urged support for the Big Blue Bus, which he said is also in jeopardy due to decreasing ridership. A representative from Main Street Merchants asked OPA members to urge the Heritage Museum director to reopen the now-cordoned off front lawn to children and families enjoying the Sunday farmers market.

Actions Taken

The OPA mixer was a success, drawing approximately 50 attendees to the Brick and Mortar Happy Hour held on April 26th.

Approval of Minutes

Roger Swanson moved, David Auch seconded approval of the April meeting minutes. The vote was unanimous to approve.

Common Ground Update

Zina Josephs, Pres., Friends of Sunset Park Association, reported on the Good Neighbor Meeting FOSP had with representatives of Common Ground, the youth drag rehab center, and the city to establish guidelines and norms for operating Common Ground at its new location, 2401 Lincoln Blvd. Zina said that FOSP was unable to negotiate an agreement on their requests: no needle exchange; no homeless youth center; limit to the business license. FOSP will now monitor the situation.

Treasurer's Report: Patty reported the following reserves:

Special Events: \$3,800

General Account: \$4,361

Lincoln Blvd. Report

Committee Chair Roger Swanson introduced members of the Lincoln Blvd. committee: Bob Taylor, Conor Libby, David Tann, Gloria Garvin, Jim Lawson, Mary Marlow, Michael Barnard, Nina Fresco, Paul Bailey, Zina Joseph, and Roger Swanson.

Roger outlined the committee's vision: Harness a local, grass-roots effort, using the talents of our community, including artistic, cultural, architectural, and financial expertise, to transform Lincoln Blvd. into an attractive neighborhood-serving street that reflects the needs and desires of our neighborhoods. Title to Lincoln Blvd. is expected to transfer from the state to the city July 1st.

Committee members Gloria, Nina, and Paul said they hope to work with representatives of the Borderline community, as well as the Pico and Sunset Park neighborhood associations to improve signage, plant prettier trees and native bushes, install medians with flowers, fill empty tree wells, add recycle bins, install decorative lighting, bus benches, cross walks, and bike racks. In time, the committee hopes to work with city officials to encourage a greater diversity of businesses on Lincoln, now dominated by auto repair shops. Such diversity – more restaurants, possible art galleries – might occur if parking requirements for new businesses were relaxed.

Some discussion centered on the need to make Lincoln Blvd. more bike-friendly. Committee members and guests noted that though Lincoln is classified as a bike route, it is left out of the city's bike action plan.

Committee Reports

Airport Committee: Michele Perrone and Mike Salazar presented the results of the OPA airport survey, which was emailed to the OPA list. The survey, open only to OP residents and conducted from Feb. 23- April 20th, drew 231 responses, which exceeds the 200 local residents who participated in the city's visioning focus groups. Re: the OPA results: 44.6% want the airport closed; 40.3% want serious mitigation; 12.6% want the status quo; 3% want "other." 70% noticed an increase in air traffic in the last few years.

In the final analysis, 85% of the respondents want change.

The #1 recommendation for alternative use is for soccer fields.

OPA approved of Michele writing a letter summarizing the survey to present at the City Council meeting the following night, when the council was to hear a report from city staff on the visioning process and the results of the focus groups conducted in Phase II of the process. The letter would point out that over 80% of the survey respondents in OP want change; hence, the city staff must address this constituency, rather than focus on the few who want the status quo.

Disaster Preparedness Committee: Marcy reported that with Jan and David's assistance a web page for disaster preparedness has been added to the web site. The board approved, at Marcy's request, a \$50 expenditure on a generic flyer for block organizing meetings.

July 4th Committee: "Buy Local" will co-sponsor this year's parade. The committee held its first meeting to plan for the parade.

Membership Committee: Board members congratulated and thanked Sadat and his committee for a successful OPA Happy Hour mixer, and encouraged the committee to organize more mixers.

Jan adjourned the meeting at 9:04 pm.