

Oak Lane Community Action Association
Meeting of March 8, 2006
Minutes

Members present were: Jaye Divine, Carmen Jimenez, Evelyn Jones, Kelly McShain Tyree, JoAnne L. Moore-Dent, Earlene Mitchell, Marita K. Poxon, T.J. Scully, Catherine Smith,(P.J.) Pamela Thomas, Sharon Williams Losier and Wrenton Wright

Members not attending: Knowledge Gahib Divine, Thurgood Matthews, Carol Weinbaum

The meeting was opened at 7:16 PM by Kelly and she will give an update on the Task Force and public relations issues.

Minutes – The February 8th minutes were approved as written.

Financial Report – Wrenton reported on the “general checking account” from the statement ending Feb. 2, 2006. The opening balance was \$2,863.83 and we had \$418 in income and \$75.75 in expenses with a closing balance of \$3,206.08 as of Jan. 5, 2006. Income not yet reflected on statement was \$422 for 17 new members; \$55 from Pot Luck; \$100 donation for newsletter; \$2,202 from advertisement, \$300 donation for newsletter from Library; \$309.45 United Way for a total of \$3,388.45. Expenses not yet reflected on statement were two Verizon bills for 73.36, Insurance Premium of \$201, Gadfellows Web designer \$500, Stamps \$117, bulk mail postage of newsletter \$434.70, and Articles of Inc. \$66 for a total of \$1,392.06. Project balance \$5,202.47. Wrenton will check on the \$30.00 check from Galleli Tailors for advertising payment .

Savings account expected to be \$789.47; Bike Patrol account balance \$2,344.25 as of Feb 22nd; Tree Tenders closing balance projected to be \$4,037.15. Wrenton will go to the bank to check the Tree Tenders account to see if there are checks as checks need to be written and advise Charles Philips. While at the bank, Wrenton will inquire about the Bike Patrol account to determine the type of account and if it can draw interest.

Financial report was accepted as written.

Old Business

Bike Patrol - Kelly met with Police Commissioner Sylverter’s right-hand person who advised her the Commissioner wanted monies for additional police personnel. However, recently the Mayor has allocated these monies for over time pay for existing officers. Bike Patrols are and will continue to be assigned to targeted areas.

Task Force – Kelly met with a Ms. Deneen Wilkerson who is in charge of organizing agencies dealing with community issues. She wants us to chose a date at the end of April

to hold a meeting with agencies to listen to our concerns i.e. noise from churches, housing and zoning, landlords, etc. The meeting would be during regular business hours and Wrenton will check with the Church for a meeting place. It will either be April 27th or 25th at 9:00 AM. It was the board's consensus that we need to build a relationship with these agencies by bringing specific issues to their attention at this meeting. The community will be invited to the meeting.

Grant Update – Kelly submitted the grant request to Rep. Evans's office and was advised that it would take a few months to process. This is for \$5,000 for use by the Communications Committee for the cost associated with the paper and the Website design.

Housing & Zoning Report – Jaye worked on creating a process to manage the complaints coming in. She developed a form with space to include: the complaint, desired outcome, action taken, OLCAA's resource information, and next action to be taken. The complaints will be numbered and will be sent to our community contact. It was recommended that the name of the complainant be blocked when sending to our contact. There is an invitation for the board or Kelly to meet with our contact.

PJ has contacted Phila More Beautiful and the dates we can do a community-wide clean up day are April 22, June 17 or August 12. They would provide us with bags and possibly other clean up tools and send a Sanitation truck to collect the trash. They will only put up garden/trash debris; no bulk or large items. The Board would like to announce the clean up date as April 22 in preparation for the Garden tour of May 6-8 and Oak Lane Day on June 3.

Kelly reported that she will go around the community again with Ray Jones to check the status on what has been done from their initial inspection. A number of neighbors reported that the wall and streets on Godfrey Avenue has been cleaned.

Oak Lane Day Report – TJ has a commitment from the Academy of Natural Science to participate in the festivities at no charge. Bike Works also will participate and they will have a bike clinic to teach kids to repair and maintain their bike.

The rental of tables will be \$10/each with plastic skirting for a uniform look. The committee will check the local churches and funeral homes for use of their tables and/or chairs to lessen our costs. Tables will go for \$25 for non-profit use and \$35 for vendors. There is a commitment for tables to be used by local artists to display Fine Arts for sale.

The cost assessment is not completed, but should be by our next board meeting. Volunteers are needed for the Planning stage and of course for the day of the event. Letters need to go out to confirm commitments by the likes of the Academy of Natural Science, Bike Works, and others.

The committee has work to do on soliciting for donations for that day. Volunteers have gotten quotes on more elaborate games for the children, i.e. Moon bounce with attendant for \$300/hr; Mini-basketball for \$300/hr., Spin Art for \$200/hr. Many board members had suggestions for children's games that were less costly and will bring these ideas to the next meeting. The next meeting is Monday, March 13th at Kelly McShaine's home. The committee meets every two weeks on Mondays at 7:00 PM.

Communications Committee – This committee would like to print the newsletter as a newspaper and have received a quote from a printer for \$305 for 2000 copies of the paper. The board members felt that this would be a project for next year since there were questions about the formatting of the paper and the cost from the Post Office may be greater. The Committee will take back this information to their next meeting, to be determined, and report back to the board next month.

It was felt that the format for the April paper should be different and it should focus on the many upcoming events. The front page should highlight each of the events and then direct the reader to the page where the story will be elaborated. PJ and Jaye suggested that the ground breaking for the Gateway Project through cooperation with OARC be covered and get press releases out. PJ and Jaye volunteered their expertise and help to do this.

As mentioned earlier, the \$5,000 grant monies will be used for the production of the newsletter/paper and Website development and upkeep.

Education and Culture Committee - JoAnne and Evelyn met with MALT and were trained on their registration software MALT also defined their relationship with us. We will be a separate entity from MALT; we need a name. JoAnne and Evelyn are working on the name. We will do the registration from our Website that will need a link to their Website. They are working on the look of the link and will need to corroborate with Jaye and our Website designer to get the link to work.

The payment for the class will be divided by thirds as follows: 1/3 for the instructor, 1/3 for the Venue and 1/3 MALT. Negotiations are ongoing for pay to instructors.

MALT does not offer classes for youth but they will support us. Our deadline for getting instructors is May 1st. Mr. Applebaun has agreed to be the "Beta Test" and negotiations are ongoing to use the Korean Church at 12th and Cheltenham Avenue. Evelyn met with the Oak Lane Presbyterian Church board members concerning this project and how it can enrich the community. They also don't want to duplicate programs already offered in our community.

Safety and Crime Committee – No report from Vernita this month. Kelly reported an increased amount of graffiti. This is evident on the bridge at 8th and Oak Lane and other locations. A suggestion was made to contact the Mural Painting program in Philadelphia

to hopefully help with the graffiti problem. There was a report of a stolen car on 10th Street.

Tree Tenders Update – The planting of the 50 trees in Oak Lane takes place on Saturday, April 8th. Registration is at the Oak Lane Presbyterian Church, 11th Street and Oak Lane from 8:30am-Noon and lunch will be provided. The participants need to bring a shovel if possible.

The concrete on the three islands at Broad and 66th Avenue will be removed commencing on March 14th and will be completed on April 1st. A suggestion for media coverage was made. Jaye and PJ offered resources to the Communications Committee to do this.

Beautification Committee - It was recommended that each committee dress up representing their committee on Oak Lane Day. Committees should brainstorm at their meetings.

Phone Calls Received – Kelly reported again about the elderly calling the Hotline asking for help. One needed help with reconciling her checking account and another requested help with groceries and the like. After considerable discussion, it was unanimously agreed that for now these requests could be managed by the Board members due to the nature of security for our elderly.

Barbara Bishop from 5th Street Revitalization called and is willing to work with us on community concerns.

Signage – Kelly showed a few renderings of the proposed sign to go up at Broad & 66th Avenue near the CVS. The sign would have black posts with gold and green caps. The lettering would be carved and painted in gold leaf. The oak tree would also be carved and painted in different green hues. At this point Kelly said that she has been doing research on our community and discovered that in the 1600's, this community was founded as Bristol Township. It was later in the 1800's that the name was changed to Oak Lane. The signage with the three words "East Oak Lane" looks more balanced. She will continue to work on this and ask the artist to do a rendering with only Oak Lane. The quoted price is approximately \$1,980 for the sign and installation. The monies for this sign would not come out of the OLCAA budget. Kelly will work on the signage funding.

Summary of Actions Taken:

- ❖ *Kelly asked Sharon to go over the By-Laws so that we can discuss next month to get ourselves ready for changes to be voted by the membership at our May 17th General Annual Meeting*
- ❖ *Wrenton will go to the bank to inquire about Tree Tenders account and to see if the Bike Patrol Account can draw interest as it exists or needs to be changed*

- ❖ *The form used by Housing and Zoning will keep the complainant's name anonymous*
- ❖ *Requests from community elderly will be handled by Board members for the present.*

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM. We will meet again on **Wednesday, April 12, 2006 at the Oak Lane Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM.**