

Old Town Battle Ground Association Minutes of the Regular Meeting, May 6, 2009

In Attendance:

Dan Mueller, OTBGA President, *Paper Moon*
Diane Harris, OTBGA Vice President, *Old Town Battle Grounds*
Nola Cross, OTBGA Secretary, *Battle Ground Computers*
Judy Ost, OTBGA Treasurer, *Express Tax Service*
Jill Kurtz, *Jackson, Jackson and Kurtz*
Kara McGhee, *Mural Artist, Member*
Mike Ciraulo, *City of Battle Ground*
Diane Rivera, *Battle Ground Chamber of Commerce*
Linda Kliewer, *Cupola Gallery*
Jane Wulff, *Member*
John Idsinga, *past Mayor*

Treasurer's Report:

Checking balance: \$2,227.24

Savings: \$920.42

Dues collected to date for 2009 are down about \$700 (or 14 members) from 2008.

None of the funds left in either account are earmarked for mural expansion. Fundraising is needed.

Old Business:

Dan mentioned again that he will not be returning as President next year. He hopes we will broaden our volunteer base, and that the executive committee will not have to do as much of the actual work that they do now. For example, there should be a membership committee in charge of contacting those businesses who have not yet paid their dues and encourage them to do so.

The discussion came back around to mural funding again. Someone mentioned that the luncheon today was being provided/donated by Old Town Battle Grounds. The idea was put forward that we could all donate what we would have paid for the lunch (\$5 suggested) into the mural fund pot. Moved and seconded, and most every one present gave Judy \$5 towards that account. Further discussion about mural funding was tabled until later in the meeting.

New Business:

Dan asked if anyone had attended the recent Citizen's Committee Meeting at the BG Police department. Diane H. said that she had, but that nothing discussed there particularly applied to Old Town.

Dan asked Mayor Mike about fading of the stamped concrete crosswalks. They are not scheduled to be repainted until late summer. Both Mayor Mike and Past Mayor John suggested that we contact Public Works department with our complaints about the crosswalks.

Mayor Mike then brought up the LIFT program (Local Infrastructure Financing Tool). The City of Battle Ground is considering the creation of a revitalization district that includes central Battle Ground Old Town. They see the new Community Center and the recently improved shopping center at 700 West Main as "bookends" of the district, which would have a Northwest theme similar to those buildings. (Exposed timbers and stone.) One possibility is that all the buildings in between would be remodeled or refaced to blend into this theme. The downside to that is that the individuality of the buildings could be lost, and that any future construction would have to fit into the theme. The advantage is that improvements to sidewalks and roadways would be part of the project, upgrading the area as a whole. Funding will come through a bond issued against business tax; both the State and the City will surrender part of what they normally receive in business taxes. Diane Rivera said the Chamber has been talking about the idea of redefining East Main as more of a pedestrian "outdoor mall", with auto traffic diverted to NE and SE First Avenue. This brings up lots of issues with traffic control around the dairy. The new Alder Creek Vet clinic on SE First was hailed as a beautiful example of what could be possible through the LIFT program, (although the clinic remodel was accomplished with private funds.) A committee is about to be formed to begin considering this idea. It needs to be spearheaded by area business owners and property owners. We are invited to take the ball and run with it.

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The discussion turned back to new ideas for funding the expansion of the mural. Kara estimated that it will take about \$17,000 to complete the project. She said she wants citizens to know now that more pictures are coming. She plans to add a frame shortly that says so, with an invitation to the public to sponsor a new photo. She says she will also approach the Margaret Heppala foundation about a possible donation. Kara hopes to have additional panel(s) done by Harvest Days. We discussed the idea of having a booth at Harvest Days to raise funds. Raffles done in the past have not been successful, and neither has just passing out information. People go to Harvest Days to have fun, so the booth should give them something fun to do for their donation. Diane Rivera suggested the idea of providing an old-time craft, such as corn husk dolls. Judy suggested we could do a rummage sale on her lawn. We agreed we will email each other with ideas and probably schedule a meeting for this specific topic.

Diane Rivera talked more about Harvest Days. It is definitely going to happen at Fairgrounds Park, with vendors clustered around the Community Center. They are considering a temporary fence around the skate park to keep skaters separated from vendors. The car show, sponsored this year by McDonalds, will be positioned on East Main between Central Park and Fairgrounds Park. Anyone interested can participate in the Chamber Harvest Days planning meetings. See their website for meeting dates. There is also a Harvest Days poster design contest open to all, with a closing date of May 15th.

Linda Kleiwer shared that the Cupola Gallery is sponsoring an amateur photo contest, "Reflections of Battle Ground". Prints are to be delivered to the Gallery by June 30th. See their website for more information.

Finally, Dan brought up an idea that had been presented to us by Brandy Slagle of the Reflector. She suggested that we use the empty store fronts in Old Town to display children's art for an art contest. Not only will it brighten the empty stores, but will provide foot traffic to the area. If we want to do this, we need to move on it soon, as school will be out for the summer shortly. Diane Rivera thought that she could provide assistance in getting the schools to participate once we come up with contest details. We also need to get the property owners to agree. The exec committee will exchange further ideas via email.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Nola Cross, Association Secretary.