

Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association Board Retreat, November 17, 2007

Call to Order and Introductions

Meeting called to order at 9:05am

Approval of Agenda and October minutes: Approved as written.

Attendance: Marlin Possehl, President; Ron Sterbenz, co-treasurer; Lisa Mills, Secretary; Rob Harris, NRP Chair; Rachel Banken, Area 1 Rep.; Jessica Wiley & Rick Carter, Area 3 Reps.; Alan Torborg, Area 4 Rep.; Jay Peterson, Area 6 Rep.; Stephen Harvey & Larry Skov, Area 7 Reps.; and Patty Wycoff, Neighborhood Coordinator.

The retreat began with a discussion of by-laws changes recommended from a review by Marlin and Jay. There were several incidental changes creating consistency in language and clarification of what the by-laws say. Some were more substantive including: 1) an expansion of the listing of duties of certain officers; 2) changing the election of area representatives to a vote of those present at an annual business meeting instead of those present from their own area; 3) redefining a quorum from one third of all members to one third of all positions (any position on the Executive Board may have up to four people filling the position – their votes are pro-rated by the number present when voting); and 4) the recommended amount to donate for membership will be determined by the executive board and not subject to approval at the annual membership meeting. An amendment was proposed to eliminate the President Emeritus position from the board but failed. The remaining proposed amendments were approved as presented. The procedure is now to announce the proposed changes in the December Bugle and hold a general membership meeting in concert with the January 9 board meeting to finalize the changes.

The retreat continued with an abbreviated monthly meeting, including new business and limited committee reports.

VP Openings – Two potential candidates contacted Marlin after the posting in the Bugle. He met with one, who decided not to volunteer for the position. He will meet with the other next week. There is also a Board member who is considering a (co-)VP position. The nominations committee hopes to bring candidates to the December meeting.

The Board approved a **new Mission Statement**: “The Mission of the Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association is to maintain and enhance the quality of life in Bryn Mawr and its desirability as a place to live through involvement of its residents.”

Website Committee – Ron Sterbenz

The committee met and discussed various options for hosting and updating the site. We are also looking for volunteers to help maintain it, as our current volunteer has carried the load by himself for several years and could use a break. The committee members each have some research to do and will meet again before the December Board meeting to bring together the ideas and proposals for the full Board. The plan is to start working on the updates in January and complete the transition to a new site in February.

Bugle Review Committee – Jessica Wiley

The committee met, along with Marlin, to discuss budgeting and planning for the Bugle for 2008. Marlin will meet with the Editor to discuss budgeting, then the committee will meet with her to discuss planning.

Budgeting & Fundraising Committee – Lisa Mills & Ron Sterbenz

The Harvest Dinner was a great success - our thanks to Patty Wycoff and the many volunteers who made it so. The Bryn Mawr Directory has sold all ad space, thanks again to Patty, – potential advertisers even had to be turned away. We are ready to go to print, with approval from the Board for the budget. The committee suggested that the first membership mailing be bundled with the Directory

mailing, thus saving volunteer time (stuffing envelopes) and money on postage. The motion for the bundling and the expenditure was approved unanimously.

Ron presented the monthly budget report, and the Board accepted and approved the update.

The regular business meeting ended, and the Board continued with the business of the retreat.

Discussion of 1997 Bryn Mawr Comprehensive Plan – Jay Peterson

Those present split into 3 groups, each focusing on 2 of the 6 topics from the Comprehensive Plan. Jay Peterson recreated the document from archives, and distributed a Summary report to members of the Board for discussion. The groups examined the key points of each topic, identifying goals met, challenges that remain, and circumstances/issues that have changed since 1997. Each small group then presented their summary to the rest of the Board. The goal was to learn from the work that was done in the past, and discuss how the plan relates to our current situation and planning for the future. The six topic areas are: 1) Richness of Community, including neighborhood involvement and housing characteristics; 2) Neighborhood Focus and Activity in its Retail Setting; 3) Neighborhood within a Park; 4) Neighbors Active and Safe in the Neighborhood; 5) Neighborhood with Access to Lifelong Learning; and 6) Neighborhood that's Easy to Get Into and Around.

Presentation of Proposed 2008 Budget – Ron Sterbenz presented extensive analysis of this and previous years. He and members discussed the exclusion of NRP money from our discreet BMNA numbers as a pass-through posting of expense and reimbursement. This gives the board a clearer implication of stand-alone activity but raises a question of what adjustments we would have to make without NRP funds. Ron explained the few categories where these funds have an impact and how we are hedging against their likely eventual loss. His presentation is available in MS Power Point for anyone to review.

The Board approved the 2008 budget unanimously.

NRP Update Presentation – Rob Harris

The Minneapolis NRP has decreed that neighborhoods will be funded for no more than 70% of their original Phase 2 budget. Since we have already spent 64% of our original Phase 2 allocation on housing and administration, Bryn Mawr has only \$110,000 left of its budget to spend for all the other Phase 2 categories. Rob presented the budget numbers and current allocations/priorities and asked the Board to examine the remaining funds and decide whether our existing budget allocations/priorities still hold. After a brief discussion, the Board concluded that the funds allocated in the Environment, Communications and Administration categories shall not be reallocated. A vote was taken on this and it passed. The Board then voted to send the budget back to the BMNA/NRP committees for their recommendations on the remaining funds and categories. The recommendations of the BMNA/NRP committees are expected at the January Board meeting.

NEXT MEETING: 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 12, 2007
 Bryn Mawr Elementary School