

Meeting held @ 61 W. 15th St. #901

6:40 pm-8:20 pm

Present: Doug Freymann, Deborah Perry, Stephanie Daugherty, Lynda Young, & Wendy Ito (by phone) *Absent:* Barbara Perez. Also *present* - Members Pamela Focia, Chloe Keidaish & future member Juli Valdez

1. New participants Chloe Keidash & Juli Valdez were introduced.
2. The proposed Agenda was reviewed and shortened significantly for time.
Tabled items: Treasurer's report (No Treasurer present)
Membership Meeting Review (Not necessary)
Outstanding reimbursements (No Treasurer present)
DFAs Task Force (Future activity – Summer)
Park Supplies (Maintenance Committee activity)
New Membership Protocol (Membership Task Force activity)
Event Planning (Future activity – June)
Training/Educational Programs (Future activity – Summer)
Bark in the Park (Not necessary)
3. The March minutes submitted to the Board on 4.1.10 on were approved 5:0
4. Confirmation of email vote - Doug Freymann as acting Secretary (until a replacement is found) - approved 5:0
5. Maintenance Committee Report
 - a. Pamela Focia reported on the Coliseum Park cleanup, which went well. The powerwasher was used for only half the park, however, and the 'powerwashers' didn't know how to draw up the 10% bleach solution (10% bleach was recommended by representatives of Puptown and Churchill Park). These issues will be resolved before the Grant Bark Park cleanup on 5.16.10.
 - b. There are five Board members and five DogGoneFun staff members who are signed up to help with the GBP cleanup on 5.16.10.
 - c. Lynda Young will bring a burner to clean up weeds around the bricks. It was noted that the bricks SHOULD NOT be powerwashed.

- d. It was also noted that the bulletin boards on the far side of the kiosk should be moved during the cleanup, and the space painted. This will need some planning (where to move the boards, how to attach).
 - e. It was noted that the GBP bag dispensers are usually found to be empty; why are GBP users not reporting? (In contrast, we do hear from Coliseum Park users fairly regularly).
6. Doug Freymann reported that he believed that the SLDogPAC has ~\$10K total in its savings and checking accounts, and another ~\$4K (estimates) in its online PayPal and ProPay accounts – total assets ~\$14K.
7. Pamela Focia reported discussions with Krolls about planning a ‘bar crawl’ membership drive event. Kroll’s is willing to donate food and soft drinks in in-kind contributions sufficient to become a business member of the SLDogPAC. Details are being worked out and will be discussed at the next Membership Task Force meeting.
8. Deborah Perry requested the ‘Recitation of Membership’ from Wendy Ito, and Wendy reported the breakdown of the current SLDogPAC membership (total 67). Deborah noted that planning for the Supporting/Business Membership party, which will be held at the end of the summer, needs to begin soon.
9. The ‘Treasurer transition’ was briefly discussed.
 - a. It was noted that the current ongoing ‘situation’ was causing hardship and stress to the organization, and that board members signed an agreement promising levels of participation and communication that in the case of our Treasurer were not being met. It was also noted that Barbara Perez has a long history of hard work and contribution to the organization, and that it would be best to discuss the situation with her first, acknowledging her prior service, and encouraging her to move on. Doug Freymann agreed to do this.
 - b. Wendy Ito noted that there are two functions of the ‘Treasurer’, and that we could consider one – keeping track of expenses and income – distinct from the other – submitting legal and tax forms – and that we should consider hiring an accountant to do the latter. It was agreed that this is a good idea that should be implemented once things are under control.

10. Bylaws

- a. Doug Freymann reported that a comment in the Minutes from November 2008 suggested that the ByLaws had been amended. No one had mentioned the amendment while the Board was considering, and passing, a different revision of the ByLaws in 2009.
- b. Lynda Young happened to have a copy of the 2008 revision with her, which she shared with the Board.
- c. The ByLaws will be revisited over the coming months.

11. New Board Membership

- a. Chloe Keidaish and Juli Valdez briefly discussed their interest in supporting the SLDogPAC. Both are frequent users of Grant Bark Park, live in dog-friendly buildings, and know a lot of people who should be aware of the activities of the group, but who are not. Both proposed specific strategies to try to improve membership and participation, including: setting aside days to recruit membership at GBP; organizing and following up contact lists of area businesses who have previously contributed to construction of GBP; improving the web and Facebook presence, and so on.
- b. Both Chloe and Juli indicated an interest in supporting the activities of the SLDogPAC in GBP, and a willingness to meet with and participate in the Membership Task Force. Chloe will contact member Jeannette Johnson to inquire about development of the Facebook fan page.
- c. Deborah Perry briefly described the organizational structure of the SLDogPAC board. Subgroups, or committees, are structured roughly as:
 - i. Administrative (Doug Freymann leads, as president)
 - ii. Maintenance (Pamela Focia leads, as a member volunteer)
 - iii. Resources (generally not active, yet)
 1. Membership Drive (active; Deborah Perry leads)
 - iv. Communication (Doug Freymann leads)
 - v. Programs (generally not active, yet; buy many ideas pending)

12. User Information

- a. Deborah Perry discussed an email received from a park user asking for help with understanding the rules and regulations that should be followed. The email raised a number of issues, including:
 - i. Are park rules clearly spelled out at the DFA? The current city-provided sign lists seventeen different 'rules' in closely-spaced lines

of text. Unfocused and repetitive text is likely to be poorly apprehended or ignored.

- ii. Park rules are not available on our website. We do have a page, but its links are not particularly useful. We should provide a clear list of rules on the site, and the rules should be structured to separately focus on distinct areas (Health / Behavior / Dog Waste / Maintenance).
- iii. It was agreed that if the user wanted to try to follow up about an altercation at the park, he/she should be able to post a notice in our bulletin board – we will work to provide a mechanism to allow this, once the boards are moved from behind the kiosk.
- iv. The inquiry mentioned the need for further training for the dog involved. It was thought that it *should* be a mission of the SLDogPAC to provide information and support for dog training, either by providing specific recommendations when appropriate, or by presenting dog behavior and training educational events from time to time. This outreach program should be developed over the coming months.

13. Additional Action Items

- a. A new 'Brick information/order form' needs to be created – should be a simple, graphically pleasing handout that can be distributed at the GBP. Chloe indicated that she can do initial design work. Brick 'requirements' and format will be provided based on the previous documents (which are out of date). Open for discussion – value of the \$100/\$250 pricing options.
- b. The Board needs to refine and clarify the city 'DFA Rules', so that the rules that matter can be presented in an easy to read manner on site and online. The clarified rules should be posted at the parks separately from the city signs.
- c. It was agreed that over the long term, the SLDogPAC should develop a position and/or protocol to provide information on training, 'clicker' training, in particular, and positive training approaches appropriate for the dog parks, in order to be able to provide guidance to dog owners who request help or information. Such an effort is fully consistent with the mission of 'promoting responsible dog ownership'.
- d. Over the summer, we should plan to maintain a membership recruiting presence in GBP on certain days. Board members who are frequent users of the park are good candidates to coordinate this!

- e. The possibility of allowing text messaging as a mechanism to report an empty bag dispenser or park issues should be investigated.
- f. We need to get the kiddie pools, currently in storage, out to the park. May be able to do this during the cleanup 5.16?
- g. We will need to add the 11/08 ByLaws changes to the existing ByLaws, and revisit the text, scope and statements prior to re-approving in 2010. Also, these need to be submitted to the Secretary of State.
- h. It was stated that the SouthLoopDogPAC.org website was not an 'obvious' search. What exactly is going on will have to be followed up on – a quick Google search with variations: 'South Loop Dog' – 2nd hit, 'South Loop Dog PAC' – 1st hit, 'Grant Bark Park' – 2nd hit, and so on.
- i. We need to organize a list of business members, and prior business donations (e.g. as shown on the kiosk at GBP), in order to plan future outreach. Doug has a draft of this information, and will organize additional materials from the archive boxes recently obtained from Gail Merritt.

Doug Freymann, Secretary

5.13.10 – draft

5.17.10 – revised