

TWDC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2020
Meeting by Videoconference

Members in attendance: Joe Chura, Dan Cotter, LerVal Elva, Carolyn Bentley, Lynn McLaughlin-Murray, Casey Ward, Dan Imfeld, Josh Wright, Grace French, Seronica Powell, Fred Calatrello, Richard Sosenko and Brent Burke

TWDC attendees: Cory Riordan, Executive Director

1. Joe Chura called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm. As this meeting is our first after our May elections, Joe asked all board members to introduce themselves and share their length of time in the neighborhood.
2. April 2020 meeting minutes
 - The April 2020 meeting minutes were reviewed. LerVal made a motion to approve the minutes, and Lynn seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved, with the exception of abstentions from our new board members, who were not present at the April meeting.
3. Board Resolution on Cleveland's Ordinance 296-2020
 - The board reviewed the Cleveland Ordinance that declares racism as a public health crisis. The resolution will show that TWDC is in support of this ordinance. This ordinance further states that TWDC supports the State of Ohio considering similar legislation, and that TWDC will take action steps to ensure that our organization live up to our mission of "organizing an inclusive community" and "building a unified neighborhood".
 - Dan made a motion to approve the resolution, Casey seconded and the resolution was unanimously approved by our board.
4. Resolution on the electronic recording of meetings
 - Due to the COVID pandemic, TWDC is having many of our board, committee and block club meeting on videoconferences. Joe and Cory discussed the necessity to be clear to the public and meeting participants how any recordings of these meetings will be used. The proposed resolution states that meeting recordings will be used for internal use and recording will be announced at the beginning of any meetings. In addition, the resolution states that if a meeting will be made public in any manner, then this fact must be clearly stated to all participants at the beginning of the meeting.
 - Dan made a motion to approve the resolution, Lynn seconded and the resolution was unanimously approved by our board.
5. Resolution Recognizing Lillian Conway's 25 years of service to Tremont Community
 - Jaime shared with our board members that Lillian Conway has worked as a librarian at the Jefferson Branch of the Cleveland Public Library for 25 years during her 32 years of service to the Cleveland Public Library system. Jaime continued and shared that Lillian was kind, cared for the children in our community and that our neighborhood relied on

her as a librarian. Our resolution recognizes Lillian for her faithful years of service along with appreciation for the generations that she has impacted in her role at the library.

- Jaime made a motion to approve the resolution, Grace seconded and the board unanimously approved the resolution.

6. TWDC Statement to the Community

- Cory and Joe discussed the statement to the community that was made in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. The statement states the commitment of TWDC to the ideas that all people need to feel welcome, safe and equally supported. In addition, the TWDC statement highlights our strategic plan that remains responsive and inclusive to our community as a whole. Cory and Joe shared their appreciation for LerVal and Seronica for their viewpoint and contribution to our statement.

7. Kollektive Tattoo/TWDC Mission and Values

- Cory and Joe opened a discussion on the concern with Kollektive Tattoo, and the fact that an artist and husband of the owner has at least one swastika tattoo that he received within the last six months. The board had a lengthy discussion that included the role of TWDC in the political views of businesses in our community. This discussion included debate on our freedom of speech, the rights of a business owner to their own beliefs and the impact of hate speech in our or any community. We also discussed the power (or lack of) that TWDC has to influence the removal of any specific business in the neighborhood. In addition, we discussed a specific business owner, who voiced concerns about TWDC having an opinion on the belief system of another business in the community.
- After a lengthy and spirited discussion, we had a general agreement that TWDC is correct in speaking out against hate. There was a general consensus that speaking out against Nazism is substantially different than offering an opinion from TWDC on differing political views or single issues. We discussed that we do not have a goal of censoring political views of our businesses.

8. Committee Chairs and Ad Hoc Committees

- Joe reviewed the committees that are required our code of regulations, and further explained the role of the committee and the Chair and Vice Chair of each committee. The board commenced on organizing each committee as listed below:
 - Executive Committee
 - 1st Vice President - LerVal Elva was nominated by Ann Marie, seconded by Dan and unanimously approved by the board.
 - 2nd Vice President – Lynn McLaughlin Murray was nominated by LerVal, seconded by Dan and unanimously approved by the board.
 - Secretary – Ann Marie Riley was nominated by LerVal, seconded by Jaime and unanimously approved by the board.
 - Treasurer – Seronica Powell was nominated by Lynn, seconded by Brian and unanimously approved by the board.
 - Safety Committee
 - Chair – Casey Ward was nominated by LerVal, seconded by Lynn and unanimously approved by the board.
 - Finance Committee

- Vice Chair – Dan Imfeld was nominated by LerVal, seconded by Josh and unanimously approved by the board.
 - Economic Development Committee
 - Chair – Jaime Declet was nominated by Josh, seconded by Fred and unanimously approved by the board.
 - Vice Chair – Josh Wright was nominated by Jaime, seconded by Dan and unanimously approved by the board.
 - Governance Committee
 - Chair – LerVal Elva was nominated by Lynn, seconded by Seronica and unanimously approved by the board.
 - Vice Chair – Brian Hannon was nominated by LerVal, seconded by Casey and unanimously approved by the board.
 - Celebrate Tremont Committee
 - Chair – Ann Marie Riley was nominated by Lynn, seconded by Seronica and unanimously approved by the board.
 - Flats Forward Board Seat
 - Lynn McLaughlin Murray was nominated by Dan, seconded by Jaime and unanimously approved by the board.
 - Cleveland Housing Network Board Seat
 - Seronica Powell was nominated by Lynn, seconded by Ann Marie and unanimously approved by the board.

9. Near West Partners and Near West Community Land Trust – Board Appointees

- Cory reviewed the Near West Partners and the Near West Community Land Trust, two non-profit corporations that have been formed in cooperation between Tremont West Development Corporation and Ohio City, Inc. Cory review the purpose and mission statement of each organization, and referred to the documents in the handouts attached to this meeting. In addition, Cory stated that he was available for questions from any new or current board members on either organization.
- As these organizations are newly formed, it is necessary for our TWDC Board to appoint board members to Near West Partners Board of Directors. The code of regulations for the Near West Partners states that three members from each OCI and TWDC will serve as board members for Near West Partners.
- Joe Chura, LerVal Elva and Ann Marie Riley were nominated by Lynn to serve as our three board members for Near West Partners. This motion was seconded by Casey and unanimously approved by the board.

10. Board Retreat

- Joe discussed our board retreat and the goals of this annual orientation of new members. Due to the pandemic, our board retreat will need to be configured in a manner to not have a large in-person meeting. Joe suggested that the retreat be provided in three sessions with the objectives of these meetings being: 1) Organizational Strategic Plan, 2) Financials, 3) Committee Goals and 4) a tour of Tremont highlighting some current work being done by TWDC.
- Joe stated that a poll would go out to all board members to determine the best dates for our retreats.

11. Financials

- Cory discussed the concern regarding lost revenue from Taste of Tremont and Celebrate Tremont. However, TWDC with the assistance of our Finance Committee, secured a Payroll Protection Plan grant of \$84,000 to assist with this financial loss.
- Cory review our grant funding cycles for both 1) Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), which is a federal grant that is obtained by metropolitan areas and awarded to CDC's, and 2) Cleveland Neighborhood Progress (CNP), which is a grant given by this organization for neighborhood revitalization.
- Seronica reviewed the financials for both 2406 and TWDC, as of April 30, 2020. Seronica further explained that 2406 currently holds our property in an LLC, and that TWDC is a non-profit corporation.
- For 2406, Seronica noted that there are a couple of properties that are open that are likely to reduce revenues for a couple of months. However, both of these properties are in the process of being rented.
- Ann Marie motioned to approve the financials for TWDC, Josh seconded and the board unanimously approved.
- Lynn motioned to approve the financials for 2406, Fred seconded and the board unanimously approved.

12. Executive Director Report

- Cory reported on the following topics for this monthly ED Report:
 - CDBG - we are waiting on the contract for FY 2020, which runs from July 1, 2020 through June 20, 2021. We were informed that the City of Cleveland allocation was \$54,000. This reflects a cut from the previous year. However, the City Council Representatives gave more. Cory thinks that this is partially to balance out and keep us at the same level of funding year to year.
 - City Allocation = \$54,000
 - Ward 3 = \$165,000
 - Ward 12 = \$15,000
 - Ward 14 = \$60,000
 - CNP Strategic Investment Initiative, 2020- 2023 Program Cycle – CNP is our second largest funder and has provided funding for the next three years. Our joint funding with Ohio City Inc. is going from \$215,000 per year to \$175,000 per year beginning July 1st. Split evenly that is a drop from \$107,500 per organization per year to \$87,500. This will be a \$20,000 hit to next year's budget.
 - Businesses – Khalid Hawthorne, Housing and Economic Development Director, leads a citywide Economic Working Group made up of CDC representatives. They have been informing the City as to what the neighborhoods would like to see as far as increased patio capacity and assistance to businesses in response to COVID19.
 - Reaching Lincoln Heights – the Reaching Lincoln Heights Plan passed the City of Cleveland Planning Commission on June 5th.
 - Future Programming Impacts
 - All programs and events have been cancelled through the end of July, with the exception of the Farmer's Market.

- We are waiting and deliberating on Arts in August and Tremont Arts and Cultural Festival.
- Additionally, we will be working with the Celebrate Tremont Fundraising committee to determine best way forward.
- Remote Work
 - All staff have been working remotely with remote access on laptops. All staff have been checking in with Cory and have formed work groups on Slack Platform. Weekly staff meetings and weekly individual check ins have taken place via Zoom. A rotating schedule has been implemented to allow social distanced staffing in the office. The office is open to the community by appointment only at this time.
 - TWDC Committee have been utilizing Zoom, and steps are in place to prevent Zoom-bombing.
 - Block club have all been offered Zoom for meetings.

13. New Business

- Lynn thanks Cory and the TWDC staff for doing a nice job staying involved with our neighbors during the pandemic and addressing needs such as food insecurity, transportation issue and rent assistance.
- Fred Calatrello updated the board on Arts Renaissance, and the passing of their founding artist director, Chris Haff Paluck. The Arts Renaissance Tremont Board intend to continue the mission of the organization and have future concerts after the pandemic.

14. Seronica motioned to adjourn, Casey seconded and the board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 8:36pm.