



Board of Directors Meeting Notes  
October 19, 2023

Board Member Attendees: Carolyn Bentley, Fred Calatrello, Jaime Declet, Jonathan Greever, Dan Imfeld, John Jackson, Kate O'Neil, Seronica Powell, Jenny Rodriguez, Deb Smith, Rich Sosenko, Tom Tosuksri, Darren Triplett and Julie Dahlhausen (Executive Director)

1. Meeting Called to Order (6:34 p.m.)
2. Approve September minutes:
  - a. Jonathan Greever motioned to approve the September meeting notes, Jaime Declet seconded, Darren Triplett abstained because he was not at the September meeting. All others approved.
3. Action Item: Board Resolution Authorization for Supplemental Grant Application
  - a. Seronica Powell requested a motion to approve a resolution allowing Julie Dahlhausen and the Tremont West staff to apply for a supplemental grant. Because of the timing of the next board meeting and the grant deadline, details on what the grant would be used for would be provided to the board after the application deadline. Jaime motioned to approve, Jonathan seconded, all approved.
4. Discussion Item: Columbus townhome project
  - a. Ann Marie Riley (Tremont West Economic Development Committee) and Elaine Borawski (Chair, Duck Island Block Club) attended the meeting to present their concerns over the Columbus Rd townhome project. This project went before the planning commission two different times. The first time they took comment, the second time they did not despite multiple people raising their hands to make comments. The Tremont West Economic Development committee (ED) has requested a meeting with Councilman Kerry McCormack to talk through the problems with the townhouse code and the city process. ED is researching the process of creating a local historic district to create a level of review that would include the neighborhood in the conversation. Ann Marie and Elaine explained that they are angry not just about this project but about the city not listening to the neighborhoods concerns. They are presenting to the board tonight to make sure everyone is speaking to Kerry

Kerry and the city with the same voice. They are asking for support from the board and feedback on next steps. Discussion continued. It was decided that the ED committee would draft a resolution to bring to the board at the November meeting for the full board's support.

5. Discussion Item: Celebrate Tremont

- a. Initial numbers show the event brought in about \$30,000 from sponsors, \$2,560 from the auction and \$2,500 from ticket sales. Expenses were estimated at \$9,500. This year's event was a smaller party but more profitable overall. There were 73 attendees for dinner and a few more for cocktails. Discussion was had about other fundraising ideas including doing the Tremont Trek instead of Celebrate Tremont next year. Committee chair Kate O'Neil invited anyone interested to the next committee meeting. Time and location TBD.

6. Executive Director's Report

- a. Tremont West staff member Lynn Friedel is being removed from Near West Land Trust bookkeeping responsibilities. Ohio City Inc. (OCI) staff will take over. They are requesting a \$2500 yearly contribution to that staff member's salary from Tremont West
- b. RFPs for the neighborhood strategic plan have gone out. One application has been received and other conversations have taken place. Current deadline is 10.20.23 but that's likely to be extended.
- c. Julie presented a potential merger FAQ sheet, available for review by the board. Next steps once approved will be to present this at block clubs. Julie is planning on presenting at block clubs in person in order to answer questions. One of the goals with this information is to have a cohesive message to present to the neighborhood.
- d. Taste of Tremont financials were presented to the board.

7. Committee Reports:

a. Finance:

- i. The auditor will be on site 10.31.23. The committee is expecting to present the audit for approval at the November board meeting. Dan Imfeld requested a vote of approval for the August financials. Tom Tosuksri motioned to approve, Jaime seconded, all approved.

b. Economic Development:

- i. Jaime presented that big questions are being asked about the relevancy of the committee. If the city isn't requiring neighborhood input or approval, what is the committee's role? The committee is discussing tools that may allow them to continue to be involved in the

process including creating a historic district and/or using CoUrbanize as a tool for feedback.

c. Safety:

- i. The committee met with police officers who reported no suspects from the Tremont Point shooting or the 40 car breakins earlier in the summer/fall.

d. Governance:

- i. Tom distributed the final version of the TWDC procedures on lobbying based on the rough draft presented last month and suggested changes since then. These are procedures not policies and guidelines for presenters and the board on how to respond. Discussion continued about the process and what board members can do vs. what community members can do to present a motion.

8. New Business:

- a. Jaime introduced a motion to support the Tri-C ballot measure. The motion was seconded by Deb Smith and Seronica opened the floor for debate. Dan made a motion to table the vote, citing insufficient prep and review time to adequately provide a value-added response to the question. There was a lengthy discussion regarding parliamentary procedure and board review process. The general result was that while the board, in principle, supported the local community school's ballot measure, there was some disagreement regarding the process of reviewing such requests and the method of expressing that support, and that the Board needed to iron out this process further to clarify its path forward next time.

9. Old Business:

- a. None was presented

10. The Meeting was Adjourned (8:12 p.m.)

Kate motioned to adjourn, Jenny Rodriguez seconded, all approved.