

Heart of the City

September 11, 2006 – Café Carpe

Present: Beth Gehred, Kimbery Wenger, Mary Linton, Kitty Welch, Mary Gates, Joan Callan, Anders Yocom, Jill Ottow, John Ottow, Chuck Ogg, Michael Klish, Ann Bemis,

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Beth Gehred.

Last month's minutes approved.

Truth to Power Moment:

Beth/Anders: Moment of silence to remember victims of 9/11 and all victims of violence since then.

Beth also read a reading by George Bernard Shaw: "Meaning in Life"

Treasurers Report:

Current Balance: \$766.85

Discussed routing of donations – Donations should be routed to Treasurer (Paul Habel), and notification sent to Ed&Out for thank you note.

Committee reports:

Outreach/Education:

Will be setting a meeting in near future for Speakers Bureau.

Purpose of bureau is to speak to groups, promoting HOC. Also need people to assist in presentations (don't necessarily need to do public speaking).

Public Policy/Govt :

2 current issues being discussed:

1) State Joint resolution 53, civil unions. This issue will be discussed at a forum in October. WI public Television has produced a special "Mariage on Trial" to be aired between now and the election.

2) Voting registration for HS seniors Oct 17, 18, 19. Kathy Kaufmann, Paul Habel, Bill Camplin will be manning a table at the High School for this registration. Asked Ed&Out to submit press releases about this voter registration drive.

Projects:

Committee met prior to meeting and discussed several possible projects:

- Ride sharing bulletin board on HOC website
- Rain Barrel workshop in the spring
- Sustainability Superstore – instead of competing with local merchants, develop a list of places that carry various projects.
- Public awareness campaign in conjunction with Ad Hoc Climate Protection committee activities
- Recycling bins at the parks.

Would like to bring these and other ideas to next general membership meeting for discussion.

Jill Ottow suggested that the committee develop a "Projects Calendar" for the year. Projects committee will meet at 6:15 before next general meeting

New Subcommittee Discussion:

- 1) Membership subcommittee to follow up with people who express an interest in the group. Suggested that it fall under Ed&Out. Kim Wenger volunteered to head up membership subcommittee. Chuck Ogg suggested position of "Membership Coordinator", group agreed to this structure, Kim agreed to be Membership Coordinator.
- 2) Website management: John Ottow, John Landowski & Kitty Welch plan to meet to take this on. Jill Ottow suggested converting membership spreadsheet into a database. Suggestions for website: Post webmaster email address; Online member application, Sustainability study circle schedule, Post Bylaws. Should this be a new stand-alone committee or a subcommittee under Ed&Out. New committee would require change to bylaws, Jill Ottow will put together a resolution for next meeting to form new committee.

Mason Homestead Preservation

Motion to amend to mention preservation of greenspace. Anders Yocom/Joan Callan
Motion to adopt Jill Ottow/Mary Gates, passed unanimously.

Old Business

Asked by Jefferson County Republican party if we would host a forum for 2nd US Congressional race. Steering committee felt that we were not in a position to host a forum for a race that covers such a large area. Also, we are an advocacy group, so probably not appropriate to get into the candidate forum business. Also not part of our mission.

New Business

Discussed sponsorship of Jill Kessenich in WI Rural Leadership Program. Anders suggested identifying a specific workshop and come up with a prorated dollar amount for HOC to sponsor that, to be presented at the next meeting.

Kitty reported on Ad Hoc Committee on Climate Protection. Gave background, next meeting Monday Sept 18, 6:00. Will discussing committee's mission statement at next meeting. Kitty encouraged people to contact city council and staff to let them know that they support what the committee is doing.

Kim Wenger said that in Colorado new buildings are required to have bike racks. Discussed need for more signage and safer bike crossings, several people have seen near misses at bike trail crossings.

Big Heart Award: Ed&Out is collecting nominations: School district (geothermal), Fort Atkinson Youth Soccer shoe exchange, Steve T/Ad Hoc committee, Jill Kessenich, Rural Leadership participation, Ernie Heine picks up cans from parks. Vero for building

renovation, Erdman for downtown revitalization, Fort Community Credit Union for \$1M to community.

Primary election on September 12, Jill Ottow encouraged people to vote for Walt Christensen, Bob Salov. Kitty had a sample ballot to show where write-in should be done (on the back of the ballot).

Chuck Ogg: Green Party Candidate, Rae Vogeler running against Herb Kohl as a peace candidate will be at Café Carpe on September 24, 4-7 pm.

Announcements

Beth: Sustainability study circle kickoff, Sept 12, 7:00 pm Palmyra - 11 new facilitators have recently been trained.

Beth: Sustainability superstore is a potential money maker, looking for other fundraising ideas (concerts, theme dinners, etc). Bring ideas for fundraising to next meeting.

Next Steering committee meeting: September 25, John & Jill Ottow's home

Next General meeting October 9, 7:00 Café Carpe.

Adjournment: 8:45

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Tesmer