

Friends of City Hall Regular Meeting 10/27/2011

A regular meeting of the Friends of City Hall was held on Thursday October 27, 2011 in the St. Mark's Activity Room, and was called order at 6:30pm by President Judy White.

Membership Report: Membership is up to approximately 120 members. A suggestion was given as to the creation of a brochure for new or perspective members. It would be nice to have on hand for November and December events, as well as to give to businesses and organizations to encourage their membership. A suggestion as to the creation of a list of reasons why we are restoring City Hall, with a facts list and a list of the benefits of historic preservation to help combat public opinion and rumors. Possibly to be include in membership brochure. A running list of such facts was submitted to Becky Lepley.

Mason's Jars: "14 pounds" of money has been collected that needs to be counted. Some locators were found to hide jars. Those have been or will soon be relocated. The Jar at Paul's Bakery was stolen. This has been a great location for donations and the owner feels terrible.

Wesley's Presentation Report: 51 people attended Wesley Thompson's presentation on Mason and Rice at the Washington Life Center on October 12th. Judy White will follow up with Wesley as to when he can begin to look at grant writing opportunities for us, and possibilities of funding and information gathering.

300 Broadway Committee Report: Work with Monahan Group is still in the planning phase to prepare for completion of prints and envelope work. Bid walk through for the exterior masonry work is complete, and the first bids are in hand, and need to be reviewed to compare the scope of work. A meeting to follow up with the bids is scheduled for 10/28/2011. The winning subcontractor will be competing with winter weather to get the envelope completed. Some work will need to be pushed back to March or April of 2012 when the weather improves. The numbers of bids received look promising so far. The Environmental Review package has been submitted. We are waiting for the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to review it before grant money can be released. A press release has been sent to the city offices for to facilitate the scheduling of a viewing and auction of items from City Hall. The press release has yet to be processed or distributed by the city.

Historical Commission Ordinance: The State of Michigan model ordinance was used to model our proposed local historical commission ordinance. Lack of commissioner attendance at most recent Historical Commission meeting prevented voting properly on the ordinance before sending it to the City Commission. 3 members of Friends of City Hall volunteered to fill existing open seats on the Historical Commission to help to continue to move things forward. Interested members were encouraged to contact the city to properly apply for the vacant positions ASAP.

501(c)3 Application: Amy Heart has been working diligently, and now has our completed application ready for signatures. Amy walked us through the process of the review of our application after we submit it to the State of Michigan. We are now eligible for tax deductible donations. Tell donors to say our application is pending in their documentation. Once approved, everything is retroactive to our date of incorporation, August 22, 2011. A fee of \$850 needs to be filed with IRS to cover our application. 2 additional forms need to also be filed, an annual tax return, and a Michigan Solicitation Permit. Both need to be filed annually. \$1,700dollars will cover the cost of all 3 documents. Amy will continue to represent us through the entire process. All of the aforementioned fees are exactly what were anticipated.

Participation in December Home Tour: The annual Home Tour will be held on December 10th. We will be participating as an advertised location. A committee to work on the event is needed. One day memberships have been created to fulfill the City's requirement that all people touring the building be members of Friends of City Hall for insurance purposes. We are looking for antique items to place on display for the tour.

Officers: David Simpson was elected secretary. Craig May was elected treasurer.

Income: Our Dinner fundraiser on October 1st raised \$879.94 plus \$1,000 matching funds from the Historical Society. Charity poker locations were researched. Our organization has been placed on the "on call" list for River Charity Poker. All local charity poker establishments are booked through 2013.

Expenditures:

- Approved reimbursement of Judy White for county registration fees, website design, and web hosting fees -\$149.74.
- Approved honorarium paid to Wesley Thompson for his Mason and Rice presentation on October 12th - \$100.
- Approved fund to cover IRS fees for 501(c)3 application - \$850
- Approved payment of professional fees to Amy Heart for her work on our 501(c)3 application-\$750

- Final carpenter's fees for removal of storage and sorting bins approved at our September 23rd Annual Meeting were \$250.

Other: Our next regular meeting will be at the St.Mark's Activity Room. Membership voted to cancel our December regular meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

David L. Simpson, *Secretary*