

PEP MEETING  
Oct 5, 2009

President Ron McAtee called meeting to order at 7:00pm

**Attendees:**

Domingo Rodriguez  
Pam Ruminski  
Christine Rosario  
Don Bowman (dabowman@comcast.net)  
Bob Boklund  
Joyce Cook  
Tim Stabosz  
Gordon Johanson  
Jodell Johanson  
Ron McAtee  
Judith Sohocki  
Liz Ridenour  
Lew Ridenour  
Susan Kieffer  
Ken Baker  
Peter Steele

**Previous Minutes**

Prior meeting minutes were approved. **Motion** Tim Stabosz Second Gordon Johanson  
**Motion Carried**

**Finance Committee Jodell Johanson**

Because of the timing of the meeting, exact Fidelity account balance was not available.  
Checking balance was \$1856.99  
Fidelity: as of today approximately \$135k, approximately \$50k is cash.

**Bylaws Committee**

No Report

**Membership Committee**

No Report

**Social Committee**

No Report

**Old Business**

Candle Light tour houses – currently have two houses – Matt Nelson on Kingsbury and the Manna House (needs decorations). Depot is putting up roadblocks and haven't committed to doing the tour. Dean White is a possibility with the former Café L'Amour. Was on the tour in 2005. Karen Ellison next to Tom Coe is a possibility.

Discussion ensued about whether or not to have the tour.

The tour has been going on for 14 years consecutive.

**Motion** Susan Keifer, Second Gordon Johanson to make an announcement to cancel the tour because of lack of houses. **Action:** Ron will put something in the paper.

Discussion about whether it is it too late to come up with some other type of event downtown, such as at the depot and have the carriage rides, etc. Currently they have the Christmas parade, and Santa Claus (which may be at the depot) right after Thanksgiving.

Our event would probably still be the first weekend in December. Also the Pioneer Land event is typically the same weekend as the Candle Light Tour. Could possibly involve the Sweedenborgen Chapel and Temple News Agency.

Having this event keeps the Candle Light tour “brand” alive. We could charge a few dollars for the carriage ride, perhaps \$5 per person. Could also potentially decorate some houses outside, especially along the carriage ride. Christine suggested we keep the same date we already have, and which we have a contract with for the carriage rides. (However, our contract is for both Saturday and Sunday, and this discussion was limited to Saturday afternoon/evening only) We could have a brochure with points of interest or hand out the walking tour brochures as a backup plan.

Decided to hold an event 4-8pm Saturday night, including carriage rides, including the church and Temple, trying for late store opening in the entire downtown.

Decided to establish a committee for this in accordance with Bylaws. Committee currently includes volunteers Christine, Liz and Ron.

Suggested carriage ride price \$5 for anyone 12 or over. Committee will decide pricing.

Idea to capture email and contact survey to get the free carriage ride. There was a suggestion to have a donation box as well.

**Motion:** Liz, second Gordon to provide a carriage ride for a nominal fee as a community service. **Motion carried.**

### **New Business**

#### **1008 Michigan**

Tim has placed an offer on the building, and it was accepted at \$64k including the land next door. He is proposing that PEP assume the purchase contract.

Discussion:

- ∴ Highest repair priority is the roof.
- ∴ Advantages to PEP owning the building versus an individual.
- ∴ Stefani Electric says the electrical is fine.
- ∴ Land Heating looked at the HVAC.
- ∴ LP Symphony is interested.

∴ Estimates were approximately \$25k for roof and most exterior renovations, however this estimate is from 2007.

**Motion:** Don Bowman, Second Susan Kieffer to purchase the 1008 Michigan property at the agreed contract price of \$64,000 and that the group officers would proceed with the details of the acquisition, including cancelling the purchase if there is some concern regarding asbestos. **Motion Carried.** (of course, Tim abstained)

Discussion on costs and potential uses, sources of grants, marketing of PEP through this project, concerns about asbestos abatement, and who would act as a project manager? Consensus that a committee would be responsible for the property.

There is the potential for a \$50k loan from Landmarks to assist in the purchase and renovations.

#### Old Girl Scout Building in Soldier's Memorial Park

LP Tree commission would like some grant money to fix the old Girl Scout building behind Lions field. The building has been sitting empty since the JCs quit using it for a clubhouse. The foundation on the side that goes into the hill is damaged and needs to be repaired. They are working on developing a history of the building. (Dean Heiss) Liz will get more detail, and each person in the group should try to check out the building before the next meeting. It is located behind Lion's field, (the ball park) near the Stone Lake boat ramp.

#### St. John's Lutheran Church

3<sup>rd</sup> and A Street. It looks as though this building will be coming for sale. They are doing work on it to prepare for a sale. They are cleaning, boarding up Windows tuck-pointing, etc.

#### Announcements

- ∴ LaPorte Historic Commission at their regular meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup> is going to have an education seminar. Meeting starts at 5:00pm at city hall. Program to be provided by Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana.
- ∴ Return yard signs to Ron's house as you can.
- ∴ Tour this weekend of the Century of Progress Homes in Beverly Shores.

**Motion:** Gordon Johanson, Second Don Bowman to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned 8:55pm