



Friends of Midtown Board Meeting
February 16, 2022
6pm - 8pm

Board Members in Attendance: Molly Haragan, Nate Lotze, Lisa Sanford, Eileen Carson, Mikell Simpson, Autumn Anderson, Heavenly Smith, Hannah Witwer, Cat Kustes, Zoe Hall, Lina Beron Echavarria, Jodi Sanger, Lindsey Sansoni, Priscilla Morales

Treasurer's Report - Eileen Carson shared the Treasurer's Report.

- Eileen shared that there wasn't much changed about the report since not much happened in January, she opened up the floor for questions or comments.
- The board approved the Treasurer's Report.

Board Business (vote)

- The board reviewed the January Meeting Minutes for approval. Eileen Carson motioned to approve the minutes, Heavenly Smith seconded the motion.
- The board approved the publishing of the January meeting minutes to the FOM website.

Chair Positions

- We need a current board member to fill the Secretary role, Hannah will be taking a Monday evening class and needs a fill-in
- Membership Chair is also in high need to fill Rhiannon's position
- We had two people reach out after a recent post advertising board positions

Intro Activity

- Lisa Sanford led a "get to know you" activity, the board went round robin and introduced themselves, how long they've been in Harrisburg, and their favorite spot in the city.
- Lisa shared a video clip from the Social Justice Toolbox, satirical video surrounding the conversation about "where people are from"
- This form of questioning is a microaggression of the person saying it, but a macro-aggression for the person receiving that questioning
- Takeaway - next time you ask someone "where are you from", be more specific. For example, "where's home for you?"
- Relate back to us, our community is made up of so many different people who are from all over the place but call Midtown home

Strategic Goals

- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Access
- Visibility
- Sustainability
- Other priorities - Increase and retain FOM membership and sponsors, board member recruiting, continue to deliver our FOM core programming, outreach & developing new partners and programs/events
- New areas - home ownership, retain and attract residents, advocacy, connection to other orgs, connection to business



Strategic Session Objectives

- Plan FOM 2022 activities
- Brainstorms:
 - Additional partners
 - Strategies to increase diversity/equity/inclusion and access
 - Offering events for range of groups
 - How to measure success (and collect the data)
 - Providing value for business members
 - Look for: collaboration opportunities between committees, ways your committee to support other activities

Board Sharing

- Zoe shared about the Doors of Midtown campaign and the chalk walk
- Jodi is planning the next steps for the Dog Park Committee, she collaborated with the Beautification Committee and started brainstorming how the Dog Park can be adopted by the Beautification Committee. Molly requested that Jodi share more information about the data and the future plans at the March board meeting
- Lina and Lindsey shared that April is a busy time for the Beautification Committee; Earth Day, Greater Harrisburg Litter Cleanup, etc.
- Hannah and Heavenly shared about Midtown Meetups and the opportunity for fundraising
- Autumn shared about the Business Bingo event that is in the works, partnering with Business members and various places around town to encourage people to get out and about. Not every item on the bingo card will be a purchase, trying to be economically diverse
- Cat shared her thoughts on how to make the Bingo event accessible for people across Midtown, using physical and digital cards, making them available where people show
- Mikell shared about the Coffee Festival, mom and pop shops will set up on Reily and create a festival
- Eileen shared about her involvement in the Adopt-a-Park plan, Penn & Dauphin is the target right now. FOM will keep the park clean, fix it up, make it look nice, and have the ability for events to happen there.
- Lisa shared about a Book Club in collaboration with HHA, choosing a Historical Harrisburg book topic to start a book club in the fall. She would also like to schedule a field trip out to a Perry County horse farm
- Nate brought up the outdoor movies and pocket park projects that are ongoing and going strong

Closing

- Eileen motions to close the meeting, Zoe seconded the motion. The board meeting closed at 8:02pm.