

Meeting was called to order at 6:36 PM on October 23, 2007 at the Holiday Inn, Skokie, IL. Directors present were Randy Miles, President, John Haben, William Schmidt, Richard J. Witry, Jordan Hirsch, Peter Nicholas. Several members were also present. Guests Vimal Prajapati of A.G. Edwards and Chris and Fred Gilman were also present.

President Miles gave his report. He mentioned the following:

- that the Street Level Art Gallery project of placing art in vacant windows for Halloween was now complete courtesy of Sonya Basinger. She reported that students from District 69 and Oakton Community College had contributed to the show. Carol Giannasi also contributed several pieces at the old Bluebird Currency site.

- that the Holiday Lights program would go forward once again. The Village is contributing an additional \$10,000.00 towards the repair and purchase of lighting and other decorations. Laurette Burke reported that the Wintrust Marketing Group, 5049 Oakton Street would display Holiday Lights this year.

- that the Skokie Music Foundation is hosting a fundraiser on November 3, 2007 when it hosts the debut of a documentary on Maxwell Street. The Foundation is looking for volunteers.

- Skokie Caucus Party is celebrating 50 years. Several members will attend at their own expense.

- The Board approved Kathy Scobel's proposal to create a Downtown Business Directory and IMODS Membership Kits. She is to present costs and design to the Board of Directors. This effort is required under the terms of the Village of Skokie grant.

- Spoke of the need for committee members and volunteers to develop and staff the following events: Cruise Nite, Backlot Bash, Downtown Summer Concert Series, 4th of July parade and the 9-11 Tribute. He will attend the first Backlot Bash meeting on October 24. Especially needed would be someone skilled in marketing to spread the word of these events.

- Spoke of the continuing dispute between the CTA and Com Ed over moving a "power tower" at the site of the new Swift Station.

President Miles introduced Fred and Chris Gilman proprietors of the "Street Level" newspaper. They explained the purpose and format of the newspaper. It will be issued on the 15th and 30th of the month and copy is due at least 5 days prior to distribution. The middle of the newspaper is dedicated to things Skokie. Members should submit articles and newsworthy events to them.

Kathy Scobel discussed the quarterly newsletter. Publication will probably be delayed until Thanksgiving as the Village may make some significant announcements in the first part of November. She is looking for contributions from Members.

Scott Holtz reported on the website and announced the following statistics: 741 hits for August - mostly related to the Backlot Bash / 507 hits for September / 368 hits thru today. The Links page is currently the number one attraction.

Dick Witry gave the Treasurers Report which is made part of these minutes. He did report an amendment to the balance in the "Foyteck" fund. The correct current balance is \$2,454.54. It was mentioned that the volunteers in the Beer Tent donated their tips to the fund. Thanks to them. John Haben moved that the report be accepted which was seconded by Bill Schmidt. Motion carried.

Monte Rifkin was absent from the general meeting. The minutes were previously delivered to the membership. Sonya Basinger moved their acceptance which was seconded by John Haben. Motion carried.

Sonya Basinger reported on her activities. The "Salon d'Art" program will be November 17th at Toscano's Restaurant. Guest speaker will be Chris Plummer who is Director of North Shore Sculpture Park. Cost is expected to be \$30.00 per person. She spoke of the arts meeting to be held at the Skokie Public Library on November 14, 2007 at 6:30 PM. This is to be forum dedicated to discussion of how downtown Skokie can be dressed up - in order to beautify and provoke buzz about the downtown. All are invited. Lastly, she spoke of the opening of a photography exhibit at North Branch Gallery on December 1 and the possibility of a winter ice sculpture event in downtown.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Witry, Secretary Pro Tem.