

OUR FAIR CAROUSEL, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
APRIL 23, 2009

Present: Peter Boehm, Arthur Curtze, Michelle Furrer, Trude Harmon, Lorraine Kenfield, Bob Marabella, Kerry McCartney, Mike Merrick, Bill Nunn, Nancy Peterson, Muriel Poehler, John Willy. Guest: Tammi Beckley

Peter Boehm introduced Michelle Furrer, the new head of the Como campus since Mike Hahm was named head of the Parks and Recreation Department. Boehm has been told she will be appointed to our board as the city's representative.

Minutes of the January 8, 2009, board meeting were approved as mailed.

Boehm noted that the nominating committee report that had been approved at the January meeting was correct in all matters being voted on, but its list of emeritus members omitted the name of Keith Lewinske.

Finances. In Jim Weichert's absence, Boehm said Jim reported that all filings are current, meaning Weichert had filed for extensions. Taxes will be filed in mid-May. Boehm reported that we have \$92,700 in checking and \$50,000 in CDs. He plans to buy two more \$25,000 CDs, staggering the purchases so we have CDs maturing every few months year-round.

Volunteers. Kerry McCartney reported that the volunteer committee recommends updating the volunteer manual. Boehm asked them to work with Tammi in drafting changes. In addition, they would like to create more special recognition for those volunteer who have the largest numbers of hours. They currently receive a gift certificate to our own shop, and in many cases they have already made a lot of purchases. Perhaps a gift card to a store or restaurant would mean more. The board was open to that possibility and Boehm asked committee members to investigate options and recommend a plan.

Ed Mishmash reported that a volunteer who purchases a volunteer hooded sweatshirt could have his or her name added at a cost of \$5 and asked whether that would be allowable. The board agreed that volunteers may do that if they pay the cost themselves.

The group discussed the possibility of an online volunteer yearbook. Tammi could take a photo and post it with the person's first name and last initial. The person could add some personal information if they choose. We would keep it private and send a link by email. This might help boost the number of email addresses we have.

Boehm also asked the committee to develop a form that would help get volunteers involved in some of the more specialized jobs.

Gift shop. Tammi Beckley reported that Audrey Claesemann has purchased some new items to round out the inventory that remains from last year. Boehm said he would meet with Audrey and Tammi to work out new procedures for inventory control.

Band organ. Mike Merrick reported that he had completely tuned the band organ the week before the board meeting. He also said we will again have new tunes, provided by Bill Nunn.

Boehm reminded that board that the sound abatement study undertaken last fall reported that even if we spent a lot of money, we would get very little abatement, simply because of the materials and design of the building. He asked Merrick to investigate whether there might be another model of band organ that would be an appropriate companion to our carousel but generate less volume. He emphasized that his query is simply for information in case a bigger problem develops or an opportunity arises.

Carousel. Art Curtze reported that the carousel is performing just fine. He said that one of the yoke pins that supports the gears is coming loose but he will wait to fix it until the fall. He noted that the platform has been repaired beneath the Carmel horse for a second time in about two years. The perimeter board had broken when a heavy person fell from that horse. The spot broke again, and this time a stronger repair has been used.

Near the end of last season, a volunteer reported that the platform had “jumped” during operation. At the time, nobody could find evidence of a problem. Curtze found that the diagonal rods supporting the platform, which are meant to be slack, had been tightened. The diagonal rods are slack so that the carousel will operate smoothly during acceleration. Making them taut could indeed cause the platform to jerk. Boehm said we need to tell volunteers not to adjust those rods, and we will add them to the list of things Mark inspects regularly.

Restoration. Boehm reported that the King Arthur horse has a broken hoof, which Bob Herskovitz will repair. Linda McDonald has been in town doing touch-up painting and will varnish the saddles before the season begins.

Fund-raising. Boehm reported that Helen Warren, who had joined the board with the intention of doing fund-raising, has decided not to pursue it, so we have no fund-raising plan in place. We have received another \$5,000 on a pledge for the outside-row “mariner” horse. We have four horses left at \$25,000; six at \$15,000, eight at \$10,000, and a chariot at \$15,000, for a total of \$250,000 in potential additional resources.

Operations. Tammi Beckley reported that we purchased a membership in an online volunteer recruitment organization and have gotten 12 new volunteers to date. She has sent out the usual start-of-season news releases. She has hired the same employees as last season, and work is being done to have the carousel and building ready for opening day.

She reported that 11 staff members and volunteers have had emergency training with the Como staff. She is creating a summary sheet of what to do in various situations, which

will be posted for all volunteers. There will be another session for two staff members who could not make the first one, and interested volunteers.

There will be a parking shuttle running a 12-minute route from a state fair lot on Como Avenue to the front of the Visitors Center, until the end of September.

President. Boehm reported that some volunteers had expressed interest in seeing board minutes. We will create .pdf versions and place two or three years' worth on the web site.

Boehm mentioned that we have several pieces of broken concrete in the patio areas. Mike Hahm had promised to follow up, so Boehm called this to Michelle Furrer's attention.

We have determined that we should set goals and hold reviews of employees who report to Tammi Beckley. She and personnel chair Clyde Boysen will work on a mechanism.

We have been looking at inserts for the interior fence, to protect children from getting their knees stuck. We looked at stamped metal and at plastic but have not found a product that will work. John Willy said the Maplewood Community Center has a solution that he thinks would work for us, a grid of plastic-coated metal. Boehm asked him to find out where it was produced and how to get in contact. Boehm said our insurer has told us the openings in our fence are too wide. We need at least to cover the sections where people line up, since this is where most incidents occur, Boehm said, so we can try a couple of sections to see how well a product works.

Boehm said the railing and a few other items need painting, and there is money in the budget for that type of maintenance.

We will have three charitable events during the 2009 season: a Como area block nurse program fundraiser in August, the ARC member picnic in August, and Rein in Sarcoma in July. He pointed out that Rein in Sarcoma began in 2001 with a small event and has grown substantially over the years, providing funds for research, doctor education, and patient-family support.

Art Curtze asked about the cloudiness of the Lexan panels in the carousel building. Boehm said we used them because they don't break, but on two doors the lower panes have gotten very bad. We don't know how much it would cost to replace them. Boehm asked Michelle to find out how we would go about getting them replaced, and noted that we might be able to help with the cost.

The next meeting will be Thursday, October 1. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy A. Peterson, board secretary