

GDBA Board Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2017

Called to order at 12:05 pm

In attendance: Kim Everett, Emily Low, Robert Smith, Carlos Porras, Kim Nurmi & Nir Sela

1. Treasurer's Report: No written report was submitted. Robert estimated the bank account balance at \$3,400
2. IRS filing / Non-Profit status: Robert informed the board that the GDBA lost its 501c3 status in August of 2016, but that this is not an emergency situation. All paperwork for 2014 & 2015 was submitted to the IRS, but 2013 was not. This caused 2014 & 2015 to be rejected. Gary Vick, CPA, has submitted all required paperwork to the IRS using information taken from the GDBA website. Current status of the Application for Recognition of Exemption is received but yet assigned to an IRS agent. We expect this to be done in 90-180 days. Robert concluded that the biggest contributing factor to this problem was that the IRS had multiple addresses for the GDBA making communication difficult. Robert confirmed that the GDBA can still conduct business and collect dues for 2017.
3. Simple Goals: Kim Everett expressed the need to be more visible in order to maintain and gain membership. Here are the new immediate (not long-term) goals the board set:
 - a. Member to member services program
 - b. Holiday photo ops on the square (Valentines, Patriotic and Fall)
 - c. Awards
 - d. Physical addition to area (benches, flower pots, etc.)
 - e. Master Calendar on the website (possibly a Google Calendar that would allow events to be self-submitted)
 - f. New Business "Welcome Wagon" (Get help from Chamber to identify new businesses within the GDBA boundary)
4. New Membership Packet and Brochure: The need for a membership packet is immediate. Kim Nurmi will get the mailing list, invoice and 2016 member list from Beth Dattomo. A new Member information folder needs to be assembled and should include:
 - a. Welcome letter from the President
 - b. List of current board with contact information
 - c. Bylaws
 - d. Short term and long term goals for the GDBA
 - e. Mission Statement
 - f. 2016 Member List
5. National Historic Registry: Robert reported that the State of Texas hearing went well and that the formal committee meeting will be later this year. 2 amendments have been proposed:
 - a. Alston's Antiques wants to be included in the district. Nancy McCoy has submitted an application amendment to the Texas Historical Commission.
 - b. Robert wants The Generator to be listed as contributing rather than non-contributing. He has submitted the renovation documents to the Texas Historical Commission.

6. Awards Committee Update: Kim Nurmi presented the awards committee proposal and it was approved by the board. (See attached proposal) The committee will continue with the unfinished business of the nomination forms and the category criteria.
7. Socials & Membership Meetings: The poor attendance of the Socials was discussed and the board agreed to discontinue the socials. In order to increase involvement, it was decided to increase open membership meetings from quarterly to bi-monthly to begin in March. The next meeting will be March 3 at 8:30 a.m. at The Generator. Kim Everett will work on finding multiple speakers for each open meeting. Emily suggested getting help from Christian at the Chamber. Carlos suggested having a “get to know you” activity at the meeting and to discuss ideas with Jan Furtick.
8. Need for a Secretary: Kim reiterated that we are desperate to fill the position of Secretary. Suggestions were discussed including Jan Furtick, GAC staff, Johnny, Paul Burns or another church member, and Ivy Cottage owners. The need to post the minutes on the website was also reiterated.
9. New Business: The Social Media Committee needs to deactivate all Facebook accounts except for the official one (Downtown Garland).

Adjourned at 12:55 am.