



[www.italianvillage.org](http://www.italianvillage.org)

P.O. Box 8001, Columbus, Ohio 43201

**Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2010**

### **Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests**

There were 14 members and 11 guests present at the meeting, for a total of 25 people. Three Board Members were present (not present was Raymond Schwab, Vice President.)

### **President's Comments**

President Larry Totzke welcomed all members and guests. All present introduced themselves. Larry expressed that this should be an interesting year, with a lot of new things happening, like 'Wonderland', which we will hear about in a minute. Also, the Columbus Police Department is pressing for the dissolution of Precinct One (our precinct). There are problems with their plan, like they plan to split our neighborhood into two zones, which means the officers in the area will be on two different radio channels, we stand to lose our liaison officer, Steve Smith, and this plan takes 27 officers with many shared years of experience from our area. We have written, on our own and with other groups, letters of concern to the City, the CPD, and others. We have a membership drive this June (new members may join at any time with a check or online). Membership is inexpensive, and proceeds provide us with operational funds.

### **Wonderland Update – Adam Brouillette and Wonderland Team**

Per Adam Brouillette, sometime in December, Mike Brown brought a group of people together to talk with a local developer about turning the Wonderbread factory into a multi-use facility – Wonderland: <http://www.wonderlandcolumbus.com/index.html> . In late January, there was a 'launch party' held to take in community ideas. The response was overwhelming. They analyzed the best use of space and how to provide for people they would like to fit into list. Since the launch, they have started a non-profit structure, set up fundraising goals and plans, and purchased the building. They have come up with other ideas to fill the space such as art, yoga, dance, food, etc. Their capacity is 30% committed at this point. They have met with the Italian Village Commission regarding cleaning/modernizing the building while keeping with the Historic Guidelines. They are concerned with how to interface with the neighbors. They are trying to view this as a community resource center and would very much like the community's feedback.

Per Josh Quinn, they were quiet about the project while the building was in contract, but now that it has been purchased, they are ready to talk. (Josh will be the 'point of contact'.) Regarding parking, they plan to have 80 spaces for the building, and are considering turning the south side of Warren into parking, as well as the loading zone. Josh stressed that they are happy to endorse whatever the neighborhood wants relative to parking, and are even willing to help work with the City to initiate the permit process if wanted. As a team, the neighborhood and Wonderland can approach the City to talk about the new parking structure. He suggested that the neighbors all meet together and come up with a plan that suits everyone and possibly

adds benefits. They are hoping the community views Wonderland as a benefit and not a hindrance to the neighborhood.

Neighbor questions:

What are the hours? Retail 11-7pm.

Music? The building is being engineered to prevent sound leakage.

Keep the sign? Yes.

Timeline? April 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the 'kick-off'. Between now and July, permits will be gotten.

July is the earliest start build date. They plan for ½ occupancy by Christmas and activity will continue to grow.

What is the fundraising plan? 6 grants, Historic tax credits, donations both small and large, perhaps corporate fundraising. They plan for a 501C3 non-profit plan with long-term lease utilizing creative sources.

Josh stressed that getting creative parking ideas together and approaching the city is a goal, and that they are looking at tenants with smaller carbon footprints (biking or busing to the space would help their chance of securing a space). Warren becoming 2-way may become part of the plan. Josh asked that the neighbors make a list of demands as a group and meet again at one of the upcoming Italian Village Society meetings.

#### **IV Commission Report – Per Jill Clark**

Jill noted that the Short North Guidelines are still moving forward.

Per Steve Hurtt, an OSU graduate planning studio is doing an inventory study of buildings on High Street. They are researching ideas and will present the ideas to the city.

Jill continued that the Presutti garage & office project is still in conceptual review (they have not decided on a time to meet with the IV Society as of yet.) Otherwise, things are pretty calm.

There are 12 new applications, mostly landscaping. L'Antibes wants to install a 'seasonal patio space' for dinner. Wonderland came to last month's meeting. Goody Boy has gone through their approvals – don't know their time frame.

#### **Block Watch Report – Jared Wilson**

We will not have a meeting on 4/20/10, as we attended the Accountability March/City Council meeting. June would be our next scheduled meeting, but since that is our Membership Picnic, we would like to have the IVS/BW meetings at the same time.

Please visit the Block Watch page on the website to order a tee shirt!

Finally, the next 'Don't get Towed campaign' is May 16<sup>th</sup>, but we'll have an IVS meeting the week before. Members of the neighborhood can visit:

<http://www.italianvillage.org/dontgettowed.html> to educate themselves on both the street sweeping and the Block Watch efforts, and to learn how they can volunteer.

### **Italian Village Park Update – Steve Hurtt**

The park is coming along. The next clean-up is March 14<sup>th</sup>, and the next mulching date is March 28<sup>th</sup>. The Lawn/Fertilizer contract has been received. The Martha Walker Garden Club issued a grant for \$2000, which covers new plantings, mulch, mowing lawn care and irrigation. Steve is working on a grant for pads for dumpsters.

Christie Nohle has seeds for sale – all proceeds benefit the park.

### **Approval of Minutes of the March 2010 Meeting**

The Minutes from March 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved.

### **Treasurer's Annual Report – Stephanie Harris**

The Italian Village Society Checking Account:

Opening Balance = \$6,402.93

Income = \$102.00 (Wine Sales)

Expenses = \$500.00 (Short North Foundation)

Closing Balance = \$6,004.93

The Italian Village Park Savings Account:

Opening Balance = \$962.70

Income = \$0.00

Expenses = \$309.76 (Estate Landscaping)

Closing Balance = \$652.94

### **Membership Report – Raymond Schwab**

Raymond was not present. Please come to our May 2010 meeting to learn what is happening.

### **Announcements**

- Meeting minutes, complete with hyperlinks, can be viewed online at (<http://www.italianvillage.org/MeetingInformation>).
- The Short North Gala is April 25<sup>th</sup>. This year, Officer Steve Smith will receive a 'District Partner Award'.
- Christie Nohle has flyers for the PJB & Jazz at the Topiary Park <http://www.jazzartsgroup.org/jazz-academy/jazz-in-the-community/pbj-and-jazz>
- MWGC will be cleaning out the 'bump outs' on April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- April 25<sup>th</sup> is the Martha Walker annual Perennial Potluck from 1-4pm in the Goodale Park shelter house.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Noble, Secretary