

**MINUTES**  
**CITY PEOPLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**D.I.A. BOARDROOM, 402 S. GAY ST. ROOM 201**  
**OCTOBER 20, 2008**

Directors Present: Treasurer Jeffrey Gleeson, Trisha McKinney, Debbie Roberts, Secretary Greg Sherrill, Patti "P" Smith, Vice President John Stancil, and President Blake Valentine.

Absent were directors Kim Henry, Lorie Huff, Zibbie Kerin, Chuck Pierce, Anne Victoria, and Lisa Wiles.

No additional members or visitors were present.

President Valentine called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m., absent a quorum due to only six directors being present.

Treasurer Jeffrey Gleeson distributed monthly financial reports showing total assets, liabilities and equity of \$6,957.87. Net income(loss) for the period September 16, 2008 through October 20, 2008 was (\$1,014.12), which included \$670 in income from dues and \$584.16 from The Sunsphere event registrations. Expenses for the same period were \$2,268.28, which included \$1,500 as payment of an approved grant to the Knoxville Holidays on Ice, \$660 to Southern Graces Catering for The Sunsphere event expenses, and \$108.28 for postage and telephone.

President Valentine reported that The Sunsphere Event lost about \$75, however it drew many new people. Approximately 45 people attended the October 7 event.

The membership and business partnership committees reported that all existing business partners have been contacted, and that the newest additions will be contacted soon. The committees have been working to make sure the benefits are listed correctly on all sources. Currently, the City People Web site, [www.citypeople.org](http://www.citypeople.org), is the most up to date. Secretary Sherrill will update the November newsletter with the information on the Web site. Director Roberts wants to hand deliver information to business partners to include a cover letter, brochures, and applications. A spreadsheet was recently emailed to all board members with a listing of all known CBID businesses, and directors were asked to review this information to see if any have been missed.

President Valentine said that a discussion needs to take place regarding the classification of business members who provide sponsorships for the bi-annual Downtown Homes Tour, as to whether these businesses should be considered benefit partners in the "off-years" in between homes tours.

Upon Director P. Smith's arrival at 5:52 p.m., a quorum was achieved.

President Valentine and Secretary Sherrill reported that only four tickets have been sold for Friday night's Ice Bears season opener event, and that the Ice Bears were holding a section of 20 seats for City People members. President Valentine will send a reminder email to all members this week.

Director Roberts gave an update on the November 15 Progressive Dinner. President Valentine will be sending an Evite for the event this week. It was noted that the PayPal payment function does not auto-fill with the event information, which had been confusing to many users. President Valentine said that it requires extended programming to make this happen. Roberts asked President Valentine to include her home phone number on the Evite in case registrants had difficulty with PayPal. Director Roberts said that the event would be casual (jeans are appropriate), and that extra beer glasses would be for sale.

Director McKinney said that a musician friend of hers from New Orleans would be in town on the date of the progressive dinner and might be available for music if desired.

President Valentine reported on the One Mile Run Committee. They are closing in on a spring 2009 date; likely on a Friday. He noted significant support from the regional running community, and said that a local track enthusiast would be handling the Web site and registration. He said that six subcommittee chairs would be needed to handle duties such as routing, designing registration forms and logos, handling registration details, and developing awards and a slogan.

President Valentine distributed information about The American Heart Association Heart Walk on November 15. Although this is the same day as the evening Progressive Dinner, the Heart Walk will take place in the morning/early afternoon. President Valentine noted that interested members could either volunteer to help with various aspects of the Heart Walk, or could join a team to walk. Director Roberts said that she and husband Dash have started a team that others are welcome to join. Secretary Sherrill was asked to include a newsletter item asking interested members to contact President Valentine if interested.

President Valentine provided an update on the Downtown Dog Park, noting that proposed designs and updates are available on the City of Knoxville Web site. The timeline has been slower than anticipated due to the complicated process of getting State and Federal approval for use of the TDOT land. Valentine noted that there will be several sponsorship opportunities for providing improvements to the park. Vice President Stancil asked about plans to keep the park safe and free of homeless loitering. President Valentine said the presence of dogs is in itself a large deterrent to homelessness, and that planners have worked with police to increase visibility within the park by providing no overhead cover, trimming trees and shrubbery between two and seven feet above the ground, and by providing high fencing along the back of the property.

President Valentine said that John Lawler would like to speak to City People regarding his 10-year plan to end homelessness in the city. A venue would be needed for this presentation, and discussion included the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Another possibility would be the new 4 Market Square venue.

President Valentine reported that a grant request has been received from The Bijou Theater to help support their 100 Year Jubilee. President Valentine will email this grant request to Board members. The Directors raised a question, as to whether the Bijou is now wholly owned and operated by for-profit A.C. Entertainment, which would make it ineligible for City People granting. President Valentine and Treasurer Gleeson will look into this.

President Valentine distributed the Board Service History spreadsheet, noting that elections for new Board terms take place at the December membership meeting. He asked directors to be

thinking of possible new Board members, and asked Secretary Sherrill to solicit interested persons in the November newsletter.

The next two meetings will take place November 17 at La Costa, and December 15 at Oodles/Uncorked; both on Market Square. Starting in 2009, we will solicit membership meeting invitations from business partners.

President Valentine suggested that City People work toward developing a five-year vision plan, to address questions such as: Do we want to grow the organization, Do we want to provide the Downtown Homes Tour each year, etc? Valentine asked directors to look for a meeting date on a Saturday in November or early December on which we could meet for 2-3 hours to work on such a long-term plan to ensure the continued success of City People growth and programs in line with our mission and vision statement.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Greg Sherrill.