

**IMODS  
MINUTES OF 11/19/2008**

**DIRECTORS MEETING**

President Miles convened the Directors meeting at 6:30 PM. The following Directors were present: Randy Miles, Dick Witry, Kathy Skobel, Bill Novello, John Haben, Sonya Baysinger and Scott Holtz were present. Peter Nicholas was present but had to leave the meeting. Tom Thompson, Fran Roehm, Tom Prescott from Forest City and other guests were present.

The Holiday Light program was discussed. President Miles will contact all members by email and request that they decorate their buildings. Krier Plaza will again be decorated by the Village as will the light poles.

The 2009 meeting schedule was announced as follows: January 15 (Th), February 17 (Tu), March 18 (Wed), April 16 (Th), May 19 (Tu), June 17 (Wed), July 16 (Th), August 18 (Tu), September 16 (Wed), October 15 (Th) and November 17 (Tu). No meeting is scheduled for December except by special request. Locations to be determined. The Backlot Bash is scheduled for August 28, 29 & 30.

The future of the organization was discussed with a primary emphasis on funding. Fifty – eight members @ \$100.00 per member does not provide sufficient funding to carry on the ambitious activities envisioned. The Board will meet at a later date to consider goals and objectives of the organization. Several members were very generous in donating time and money over and above dues to the organization.

Sonya Baysinger was called upon to give the Fine Arts report. Disappointment was expressed that the Village did not appoint one of our members to the Advisory Art Committee. It was also announced that the first piece of art was purchased and placed in the Village Green.

The Street Level Gallery will fill the windows to the west of Annie's. Mike Baur's sculpture is ready for installation on the Village owned property on Lincoln Avenue across from St. Peter Catholic School. It is to be installed in stages. A permit must first issue from the Village. Ms. Baysinger will undertake this endeavor. The District 69 Foundation will undertake to paint the Desiree windows. Sonya announced North Branch exhibits for 2009. These can be found on the website in the new brochure.

Al Curtis was present and announced that the Skokie Music Theater Foundation was donating tickets for a Holiday music program to be performed on Friday, December 12, 2009. Tickets are \$20.00 and all proceeds will go to IMODS. Thank you Al and SMF. He announced several upcoming shows and indicated that the last 2 months have been very successful.

Scott Holtz announced that the website has been successful as the number of hits has remained high. He will undertake a revision of the website which will occur gradually. He wants to create a Google Calendar upon which all downtown events can be listed. As

envisioned, this calendar will be the access point for all events in the downtown area.

President Miles reported on the Special Zoning Committee appointed by the Village and chaired by Peter Nicholas. The Committee's report has been submitted to the Village Board and its recommendations will be voted upon at the December 15 Village Board meeting.

Congratulations to the Skokie Public Library for its receipt of the 2008 National Medal for Museum and Library Sciences which was awarded by First Lady Laura Bush in a ceremony in Washington, DC. This award is a rare honor.

Kathy Skobel showed a mock-up of the new brochure and requested all Directors to review it for typos, content etc. This brochure will not be printed but will be posted on the website. She also presented proposed signage for the entryways to Downtown Skokie. The sample was given to Tom Thompson for review by Village Hall.

Bill Novello gave the Treasurer's report. The Foytek fund has approximately \$6,500.00. President Miles indicated that the goal is \$15,000.00 but that design planning would begin soon. Bill also stated that he will meet with Tom Thompson regarding the balance of the grant money previously awarded to IMODS. Witry moved its approval which was seconded by Holtz. Motion passed in a voice vote.

The minutes of the October meeting were passed out electronically. Motion to approve made by Haben and seconded by Moscovitz. Motion passed in a voice vote.

Tom Thompson from the Village of Skokie was present and reported on the Skokie Swift Oakton Street station. He brought with a rendering of the station which was shown to all present and can viewed at Village Hall. He reported that the structure on the real property north of Searle Parkway, now owned by the Village, will be razed in the near future. The south property remains in litigation. He reported that Forest City has 12 tenants with approximately 800 employees. Building A is completely filled. Mr. Thompson reported that the old Vitello's property rehab is progressing nicely. A tenant for the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor has been secured and will design video games. First floor space is still available. The 4901 Oakton Street property (The Hobby Store location) may be leased out to a restaurant. The Golf Store demolition is nearly completed. There are no present plans for this site as of yet. The Skokie Lanes cite continues to wrestle with environmental concerns as a tank remains on the property. Litigation regarding responsibility is pending.

Mr. Prescott was asked a question regarding the desirability of the "wet-lab" space and Forest City's efforts to lease it out. He reported that the space is not as desirable as first thought and that it has been difficult to compete with the wet-lab facilities on the East and West coasts. He did report that due to the Village's ad program on 670 AM, a prospective new tenant approached Forest City. If consummated, the possibility exists for a large lease-up of approximately 8,000 square feet.

Next meeting will be January 15, 2009 at a location to be determined.

Motion to adjourn made at 7:30 PM by Haben and seconded by Novello. Motion passed in a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard J. Witry, Secretary