

**Minutes of IMODS Meeting
January 15, 2009**

In attendance: Al Curtis, Louis Irmo, Susan Irmo, Ross Mathee, Howard Meyer, Randy Miles, Peter Nicholas, Bill Novello, Fran Roehm, Bill Schmidt, Kathy Skobel, and Tom Thompson,

President Miles called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

President's Report: There being no new members to introduce, Mr. Miles thanked Mr. Mathee for the use of NSCBT's conference room for our meeting. Since the Foytech Fund now has \$6,685.33 on deposit, Mr. Miles has begun discussions with the Village, the Park District, and the Public Arts Advisory Committee ("PAAC") to identify appropriate sculpture work and placement.

Mr. Miles noted that the Village has shifted its development focus from the downtown (Lincoln and Oakton) district toward the Science and Technology Park including the possibility of having the downtown TIF lend money to the Science and Technology TIF. This development clearly does not coincide with IMODS' objectives.

Mr. Miles noted that general elections will be held in April and that most, if not all, positions will not be contested. As a not-for-profit agency, IMODS has no official position with regard to these elections other than to make its members aware of their dates.

Depending on funding, the successful car show events may be expanded to twice per month. Mr. Miles also mentioned that discussions were being held with downtown merchants to create a show/lunch/dinner program in conjunction with the Skokie Theater venue.

Mr. Thompson was advised that most IMODS' merchants felt the Village's snow removal efforts were terribly inadequate versus prior years. It was noted that the Swift Day Care Center seemingly had its entire Lincoln Avenue frontage cleared while merchants on Brown Street, Lincoln Avenue, and Oakton Street were only afforded partial "cuts" through their street locations.

Arts and Entertainment Report: Ms. Baysinger was absent. Mr. Miles reported that Ms. Baysinger was being recommended for a position on Skokie's PAAC.

Skokie Public Library Report: Frances Roehm advised that new data bases are now being provided by the library and encouraged everyone to visit the library to utilize these new features.

Skokie Theatre Report: Al Curtis reported that the theater had a very good year but would be closed for most of January.

Web Site Report: Scott Holtz was absent.

Temporary Zoning Commission Report: Peter Nicholas reported that the commission was now focusing on the areas north of Oakton Street and east of Skokie Boulevard. The next commission meeting is scheduled for January 22 and all members are encouraged to attend.

Marketing Report: Kathy Skobel brought a proposed new marketing brochure and asked that members provide any additional input no later than January 21. Kathy also presented drawings for proposed directional signage throughout the downtown area.

Howard Meyer reported that the Skokie Chamber of commerce had a very good year and is now sponsoring job fairs in partnership with the Illinois Department of Employment Security.

Treasurer's Report: The financial statements were presented and approved.

Village of Skokie Report: Mr. Thompson expressed concerns that the outstanding balance of Village's grant to IMODS needs to be addressed. He reported that a Jamaican restaurant was interested in opening in the currently vacant space at 4901 Oakton Street,

Plans for the new Skokie Swift station are 95% complete. The Village will be hiring a consultant to provide a marketing analysis for downtown Skokie. The matter will be presented to the Village board at its January 20 meeting.

Secretary's Report: In Mr. Witry's absence Mr. Novello presented the prior meeting minutes which were approved.

Open Forum: Frances Roehm mentioned that the library was looking into the possibility of having a "First Night" celebration for next New Year's Eve.

It was agreed that the February meeting be moved from the 17th to the 24th. The meeting will be held at the library. All business being completed, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Novello
As Acting Secretary