

JEFFERSON PARK FORWARD



General Meeting Notes:

Thursday, March 17, 2016 7:00 PM

The Gift Theater

Attendees:

25 Attendees Present

Welcome and Thanks to the Gift Theater and Gale Street Inn!

1. The Gift Theater Introduction (Hosts): Cyd Blakewell, an ensemble member at the Gift, welcomed all and explained the mission of the Gift: to tell great stories on stage with honesty and simplicity. The Gift Theater is currently in its 15th year. Last year was an attendance record-breaking season and the theater received national recognition. Now Performing: Richard III at the Garage at Steppenwolf, anchored by the Gift's own Michael Patrick Thornton. Also, later this year, the Grapes of Wrath will be performed in the Jefferson Park Theater. Next Fall, a new work comes to the stage – "A Life Extra-ordinary" – a World Premiere. Cyd encouraged the group to continue to support local businesses and the Gift and part of Jefferson Park. Everyone is encouraged to become a member/subscriber. For more information, find: <http://thegifttheatre.org/>

2. Committee Reports
 - a. Bylaws – Marie MacDonald – the first meeting next Tuesday, March 22nd, 8:00 PM, 5314 N. Laramie Avenue
 - b. Economic Development – Zach Hoffman (see Economic Development Committee notes)
 - c. Fundraising & Service – Sam Wertime:
 - i. A survey was posted on interests and volunteerism – 60 people responded. Final results will be compiled and communicated in the next few weeks, with an action plan to follow.
 - ii. Note the upcoming Fundraise: Olive's garden for the Hungry. Saturday, April 9th, 3PM – 6PM, Rabbit's Bar and Grill, 4945 West Foster Avenue.
<https://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/20160315/jefferson-park/fundraiser-set-for-jefferson-park-community-garden>

- d. Livability & Attractiveness – Marie Macdonald
 - i. The group continues to pursue the idea of a dog park in Jefferson Park.
 - ii. Additionally, they hope to coordinate with Chicago’s Clean and Green for a neighborhood cleanup, Saturday, April 16th. More information to come on that front.
 - iii. Post office planters update: Post office has agreed that the group will plant on Lawrence and they (the P.O.) will maintain.
 - iv. They are also getting ready to re-energize the Twitter campaign to get groups to encourage responsible parties to clean up neighborhood messes.
 - e. Social/Events – Rolando Rodriguez
 - i. Pub Crawl: 2-7 PM on Saturday, April 9th. It will start at Babe’s, 4416 N. Milwaukee
 - ii. The Fannies Brunch outing last month was a success. It provided the business brunch since Fannie’s opening.
3. Speaker: Anne Cauley, Chicago Fringe Festival (CFF): The 7th annual Chicago Fringe Festival will take place **August 31-September 11, 2016** in Jefferson Park. CFF creates a pop-up festival environment within a two block radius, stretching from the Gift Theater to the Congregational Church with a central hub at Fischman’s. 50 performing arts groups will be featured in 200 performances. This includes aerial artists, puppeteers, dancers, storytellers, and more. CFF also features Kids Fringe each weekend which includes five family friendly shows along with free workshops, crafts and activities. Shows are \$10 (\$5 for kids) plus a one-time festival button for \$5. 100% net sales go back to the artists.
- a. Important Dates:
 - i. **May 19th**: Five Fifths of the Princess Bride Fundraiser (Filament)
 - ii. **August 31st**: Preview Party
 - iii. **Sept 1-5, 8-11**: The 7th annual Chicago Fringe Festival
 - iv. **Sept 3-4, 10-11**: Kids Fringe
 - v. **TBA**: Mini Kids Fringe Day in a local park
 - b. Volunteerism at the Festival:
 - i. **Box Office Team**: sells tickets, buttons, merchandise, etc.
 - ii. **Kids Fringe Volunteers**: help create art projects and facilitate fun games
 - iii. **Fringe Runners**: transport items between venues
 - iv. **Festival Spirit Society**: use unusual talents (face painting, unicycling, sidewalk chalking, juggling, etc.) to build a festival atmosphere
 - v. **Photographers**: take pictures of shows and events

- vi. **Set up / Take down:** help set up all venues in advance of the festival and help to strike venues after. Lifting heavy objects, comfortable with power tools, willing to get dirty.
- c. Volunteerism around the fest
 - i. **Host an Artist:** If you have a spare bedroom, futon, or couch and enjoy company, hosting an out-of-town artist is easy, fun, and a great opportunity to meeting other community minded theatre people.
 - ii. **Feed the Volunteers and Artists:** Prepare a meal during a weekend day of the festival. (Contacts for this activity forthcoming as more details come about.)
 - iii. **Donate a Silent Auction Item for the Five-Fifths of the Princess Bride Event.**
 - iv. **Donate a prize for a Daily Fundraising Goal:** Every day a fundraising goal is set during the festival. If the goal is met, a “prize” is shared with all of Fringe Central that evening. A baked good, a treat, a piñata, pie in the face, water balloon fights, etc.
 - v. **Become a Seasonal Staffer** – open positions include: Billeting coordinator, Marketing Manager, and Sponsorship and Community Engagement Manager
 - vi. **Join the Board**

4. New Business:

- a. Much discussion recently about a safety committee for the neighborhood. Any interested volunteers to lead a safety committee contact us at webmaster@jeffersonparkforward.org
- b. “Hands to Help” Fundraiser at the Filament Theater – April 29th, 7:00 PM at the Filament Theater, 4041 N. Milwaukee Avenue:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/161076960936698/>
- c. An idea was brought forth by Tom Lang of the Roberts Square Advisory Council – to post information on Everyblock and Nextdoor since not everyone is on Facebook
- d. Jefferson Park Farmer’s Market at Fischmans Annex, Sunday, March 20th.
- e. Chamber of Commerce News (Tricia Lombardo):
 - i. Clean and Green – cleaning up the neighborhood either April 23rd or April 30th – TBD. They are working on ongoing maintenance along the major corridors in the neighborhood as much as three days a week.
 - ii. “Brews and Blues” – Friday, June 3rd at the Copernicus Center, featuring Lurrie Bell and craft breweries.
 - iii. Continuing funding of additional public art installations.
 - iv. Offering a JP Scholarship programs for 8th grade – for more information, visit <http://www.jeffersonpark.net/>

5. Adjourn