

2016-07-19

MURRAY FREEDOM FESTIVAL BOARD of TRUSTEES' MEETING MINUTES

TRUSTEES IN ATTENDANCE:

President, John Hensch; Co-vice president, Matt Lewis; Treasurer, Nikki Lewis; Secretary, Pat Zeigler

TRUSTEE ABSENT:

Co-vice president, George Blessing, Jr.

COMMITTEES PRESENT:

Fundraising Chair, Mike Zeigler; Bingo, Mike Gillott; April Schmeckpeper, 5K Freedom Run/Walk; Harold Hammons, representing Melissa Hammons for car show

ABSENT:

Car Show and Website, Melissa Hammons; Sheila Simpson, Conestoga Boosters rep for Young Park concessions; Murray Christian Church rep. for concessions/games

PRESENT AUDIENCE/VOLUNTEERS:

Jessica Vallery, Brian & Kim Rouse, Roy Murabito

MEETING CALLED to ORDER at 7:01 p.m. by J. Hensch.

Motion by Hensch to approve minutes of 2016-06-21 meeting. 2nd by M. Lewis, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Beginning balance, balance: \$10918.55

Total income for all events: \$4832.27

Expenses: \$2,779.18

Ending balance: 9,970.94

CAR SHOW:

1. Roy Murabito, Mynard, was not on the agenda, but asked if he could speak first on organizing car shows. Since '83, he's one of the remaining organizers and is current VP of Nebraska Car Council. Handed out 2016 reference booklets to Board and audience members. Use table of contents in front of book, as back index is incorrect. Anyone can advertise in this booklet, even if not an actual car club. Car shows need to have a 'firm-hand' to run it. Totally free is best. If you give trophies, you need a LOT of help to sort out voters' ballots.
2. You MUST advertise heavily and give fliers out at car shows.
3. CLASSES: Antique, 20's 40's, 50's, 60's, modified or stock. Three-deep/class. Street rods (pre-49). Someone needs to 'referee' the show.
4. FREE 'SHOW-N-SHINE' requires no entry fee, no classes, no trophies, just show up and park. Have food to buy. Sell beer only with wristband, if you want, but alcohol can be a problem. Have law enforcement, especially if serving alcohol.
5. Preference is in shady area, with preferably no concrete, however entrants will pretty much set up anywhere, except in dirt or water. Have them bring their own shade, if possible.
6. Beware of vendors trying to use our event just to make money.
7. Cut-off is DECEMBER for advertising car shows in W-H.
8. Dash plates, goody bags, other car item giveaways are a good idea.
9. Car Council is a voluntary organization.

5K FREEDOM RUN/WALK:

1. April Schmeckpeper said it went very well with 80 entrants. (51 last year.)
2. Runners had good comments about how well-organized it was.
3. More runners wanted t-shirts, but due to website challenges, couldn't sign-up online for their shirt sizes, (however, they could have sent an email or called).
4. Suggests that in the future, need to change contact info for each event to go to event organizer directly.

EAGLE SCOUT UPDATE:

1. Brian & Kim Rouse, Zeke's parents, attended on his behalf, as he had another commitment.
2. Kim read Zeke's thank you to Board.
3. Zeke felt his project was successful.
4. Hensch signed the Eagle Project form, verifying that Zeke did perform the project at the Freedom Festival event.

OOZEBALL:

1. Jessica Vallery, Judy and Mike Simpson all volunteered at the oozeball games this year and Jessica gave an update. (Simpsons were not in attendance.)
2. The games raised almost \$1800.
3. Last year there were 18 teams, this year, 29 teams participated.
4. Jessica felt the registration process was a disaster. Too many people in a small area with too few tables.
5. Brackets weren't large enough. Need to try to keep brackets separate.
6. Suggests that this particular event be kept to ages 12 and over.
7. Need a sound system to announce to such a large group. Had to have workers walk through crowd shouting team names for next games.
8. Need someone keeping score on each court.
9. Suggestions of best 2 out of 3. Play 3 sets? Lower scoring?
10. Make a banner for oozeball and a traveling trophy?
11. Suggests no WHITE T-shirts for oozeball.
12. Jessica said that both she and Judy Simpson have volunteered to organize and run oozeball games next year.
13. Board thanked them all for their help.
14. It was chaotic, but everyone had a good time!

Hensch suggested in January to have an art contest for oozeball shirts at high school with the winner receiving a \$100 gift card to Dick Blinks.

April suggested to order very early and order many. Double -sided affects price also.

Matt Lewis stated that t-shirts are very expensive, so should we make banners instead?

CAR SHOW:

1. Harold Hammons talked to most of the car show entrants.
2. Feels we need to do just do a show-n-shine.
3. Don't do any judging or trophies, it avoids a lot of arguments.
4. Dash plates went over well.
5. Wants to make it a money-maker somehow.
6. Can car show be moved to fire department?
 - a) Hensch stated that probably wouldn't work, especially on the 4th.

BINGO:

1. Mike Gillott reported that it was GREAT and the best year of all the years he's been calling Bingo for Murray's 4th of July.
2. Donation of stuffed animals Hensch donated from Omaha zoo were mostly defective. They were missing pieces or torn. Hensch will check into what happened.
3. Going 3 hours worked very well.
4. Four or five players were there before it started and stayed till the end.
5. Big turnout and the profit doubled this year.
6. Air conditioning was pretty chilly, but having it at school was great!
7. Suggested concessions be available at Bingo next year.
8. Suggested we have another fundraising BINGO night, preferably on a Friday night.
 - a) Find out when high school is NOT having a game.
 - b) Do before the end of December with concessions.

PARADE:

In Geo Blessing's absence, M. Zeigler reported that the parade went well.

Blessing sent an email reporting Murray Freedom Festival 2016:

1. Parade Line-up (as-performed)
2. Boy Scouts - Color Guard
3. Girl Scouts - Salute to Freedom banner
4. Horse and Rider
5. Grand Marshal - Chris
6. Grand Marshal 2 - Pickup
7. Miss Murray
8. CCSO
9. MVFD 731
10. Murray Rescue 710
11. Plattsmouth Fire 105
12. Weeping Water Fire
13. Small Ford Tractor
14. Larger Farm-all Tractor
15. Murray Christian Church
16. Liberty Enterprises
17. Louisville Fire - Truck
18. Cass County EMA
19. Union Fire - old truck
20. Union Fire 2
21. Union Fire 3
22. Kids on hayrack behind white truck

23. John Deere Gator w/ American Flag
24. Conestoga Cheerleaders
25. Miss Cass County
26. Fred Ulrich
27. Weeping Water Case IH Gator
28. Harvest Festival King / Queen
29. "Train of kids" in wagons behind lawn mower
30. "42" Race Car
31. "6" Race Car
32. 2 Mini race cars (Matt Lewis)
33. Conestoga Dance Team
34. Miss Weeping Water
35. Blue Motorcycle Trike
36. Minneapolis Moline (?) Tractor
37. Person carrying flags
38. Murray Fire - last truck
39. Geo - last entry in parade

DETONATOR RAFFLE:

Raised little money, so Board voted unanimously to not do detonator raffle again.

WEBSITE:

1. April suggests there be one overseer.
2. At least one Board member needs to be able to access website.
3. Need to get access codes from Melissa Hammons ASAP, as she will be leaving the country in a couple of months.

SMASH-A-CAR:

1. Also, not a big fundraiser.
2. Jim Howe and Billy Sharp couldn't furnish one, so 3 days before, M. Lewis and M. Zeigler had to scramble to get a car.
3. Matt Liebert, from the recycling center a mile south of town on Highway 75 found a car in Nebraska City.
4. Lewis and Zeigler had to go get it on Friday, then Lewis had to return it.
5. Pat motion to do without, Board unanimously voted to not do Smash-a-Car.

EXPENSES:

1. P. Zeigler turned in receipts for expenses totaling \$445.61.
2. Hensch and N. Lewis reimbursed Zeiglers for those expenses at tonight's meeting.

GRANT:

P. Zeigler reminded others that grant info needs to be turned in to her very soon, so she can get it submitted by the September 4, 2016 deadline.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

1. CARNIVAL: Thomas D Thomas Shows were set-up in Nebraska City the weekend before the 4th, so they contacted P. Zeigler five days before the event, stating that they could set-up for us late Sunday evening, the 3rd.
2. Zeigler contacted both the Village Board and MFF Board for approval and it was a 'go'.
3. We would only have to furnish the area and a water spigot.
4. Thomas Shows verbally said they'd give us 15% of their gross proceeds for the evening.
5. Although it was an unplanned occurrence, it went pretty well, with Thomas setting up 6 rides directly behind and to the west of the Young Park concession stand.
6. They offered to come back next year.
7. It was suggested that we try to offer wristbands next year, instead of purchasing tickets, as they were quite expensive.

CONCESSIONS:

1. Neither Murray Christian Church or Conestoga Booster reps were in attendance tonight, so no word on how their concessions went.
2. Sheila Simpson, (Booster rep.), emailed P. Zeigler stating the Boosters would like to have the Young Park concession stand for 2017 4th of July.
3. Per suggestions of folks the day of the event, there should be more grilled food, i.e. hot dogs, burgers. The grilled-food smell will attract hungry appetites.
4. Carnival has a food truck.
5. Suggestions: snow-cones, cotton candy, pizza, among others.
6. MFF should have their own concessions, if we have more volunteers.

ENTERTAINMENT:

1. Per M. Zeigler, Lucas Minor has offered to sing in the park again next year and sent his thanks to the Board. He enjoyed 'giving back' to his home town in this way.
2. Minor suggested that music go right up to time of national anthem/fireworks.

RAFFLE:

1. It was suggested that we collect prizes and have a raffle next year.
2. No volunteers to do head that up.

OPERATIONS:

1. P. Zeigler suggested that treasurer should give start-up money directly to each activity organizer.
2. Zeigler's efforts to contact Treasurer, N. Lewis, since July 4, were not successful, and on July 12th, M. Hammons brought Zeigler donations that were collected at the car show and Gillott brought Bingo proceeds, also.
3. Zeigler deposited those funds the following day, July 13th.
4. Zeigler then suggested that Treasurer should collect from each activity organizer as the activity finishes.
 - a) Treasurer, activity organizer and one other Board member should count cash at that time and sign-off, so it can all be deposited immediately, the first business day after the 4th.

FIREWORKS STAND:

1. Blessing, via email, has been researching the 'Wild Willies' Fireworks company for a possible fireworks stand next year.

August 2nd is next meeting, 7 pm, Murray Town Hall.

Motion to adjourn by Hensch, seconded by Zeigler. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Zeigler, Secretary

