

MEETING MINUTES - MURRAY FREEDOM FESTIVAL – March 2, 2021

Attendees: George Blessing Jr., George Blessing Sr., and Jerome Speck.

Guests: John Masters, Rachel Brandenburg (CHI T.E.A.M.)

1. Call to order at 7:04.
2. Minutes from previous (February 2, 2021) meeting
 - a. Motion to accept: George Sr.
 - b. Second: Jerome S.
 - c. Vote: Carried
3. Financial Report
 - a. Previous Balance (02/02/2021) \$2577.08
 - b. Deposits
 - i. None
 - c. Payments
 - i. Fireworks Pre-payment to Outlet Fireworks - Ck #1174 (\$1500.00)
 - d. Donations
 - i. None
 - e. Pending invoices
 - i. None
 - f. Future invoices
 - i. None
 - g. Balance as of 03/02/2021 \$1077.08
 - h. Motion to accept as published: George Sr.
 - i. Second: Jerome S.
 - j. Motion: Carried
4. Old Business
 - a. Fireworks
 - i. July 4th is on a Sunday this year.
 - ii. Jimmy Howe and John Masters are going to run the fireworks show as they did last year.
 - iii. The fireworks show will be around the \$10k mark as last year.
 - iv. John will host a demo night on June 19th at Buccaneer Bay.
 - v. Jimmy and John are assembling the staffing for the show along with the necessary permits and insurance.
 - vi. Beaver Lake is on July 3 and Council Bluffs is on July 2.
 - vii. The show will have more 4" shells this year and will have a story theme as in past years.
 - viii. "Train Wreck"
 1. The Freedom Show – freedom from COVID.
 - ix. Jimmy will bring a car to be smashed as a fundraiser as was done in 2019.
 - x. There will also be some holographic devices as part of the show.
 - xi. Payment to Outlet Fireworks - \$1500
5. New Business
 - a. Additional Donation from the Blackbaud Giving Fund (Wells Fargo)
 - i. Amount is \$150.00 – will be deposited in the next couple of days.
 - b. Cass County Tourism Advertising grant application
 - i. Approved for \$750.00.
 - ii. Approval letter received on 02/19/2021.
 - c. IRS 990 filing
 - i. Still need to do this.

- d. Fundraising update
 - i. Jerome is going to distribute glass donation jars at various locations around the area.
 - ii. Cornhole tournament at Lake Ridge
 - 1. George Sr. will communicate with Rowdy
 - 2. Business sponsorship?
 - a. CHI / T.E.A.M. is interested in sponsoring an event
 - iii. Online solicitation of funding
 - 1. Something we need to look into doing.
 - iv. Sell fundraising advertising for the program.
 - 1. \$400 for ¼ page, \$1000 for full page
 - e. Permission to hold the event in the City of Murray
 - i. Need to get on Agenda for 03/09 Village Meeting.
 - f. Possible events for this year
 - i. July 4th is on a Sunday this year.
 - ii. All contingent on the status of Covid and rules set forth by local governmental agencies.
 - iii. Fireworks – Outlet Fireworks
 - iv. 5k
 - 1. Need to communicate with April Schmeckpepper and get this going by no later than April 1.
 - v. Corn Hole tournament at Young Park
 - vi. Car Show
 - vii. Band?
6. Open Discussion
- a. Car show could be located on the empty lot north of the City Hall.
 - b. Jamie Halagarda
 - i. She interested in running the concession stand in Young Park
 - c. Promote patronization of the two local food businesses
 - i. Crow's Nest
 - ii. J.R. Bar and Grill
 - d. Fireworks rain date is Monday, 07/05.
 - e. John Masters would be interested in helping us to possibly sell some fireworks, but we would need help running such a thing.
 - i. We would need a good location and good signage.
 - ii. A good location might be in the old grocery store on Main Street.
 - iii. We could make quite a bit of money just over the July 2 / 3 / 4 time frame.
7. Adjourn at 7:53p
8. Next meeting will be on Tue, 04/06/2021 at 7p at the Murray City Hall.

Respectfully,

George Blessing, Chairman

Murray Freedom Festival

www.MurrayFreedomFestivalNE.com

murrayfreedomfestival@gmail.com