

2016-03-01

## MURRAY FREEDOM FESTIVAL BOARD of TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order promptly at 7:00 by Board President Hensch.

Attending Board members: President, John Hensch; Co- Vice President, Matt Lewis; Treasurer, Nikki Lewis; Secretary, Pat Zeigler.

Members absent: Co-Vice President, George Blessing, Jr.

Attending Volunteer and Guests: Kevin Smith, Mike Gillott, Nancy & Larry Hancock, Harold Hammons, Melissa Hammons, Todd Morris, Pastor Mike Njus, Abigail Njus

President Hensch read minutes of last meeting:

1. Motion to approve by Zeigler, seconded by Matt Lewis.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Begin balance: \$4589.23
2. Deposits: \$1288.05
3. End balance, \$5877.28

New business:

1. Hensch announced that MFF has been awarded Cass County Tourism's 2016 Marketing Grant in the amount of \$1500 for Festival promotions.
  - a) Grant guideline requirements for reimbursement must include:
  - b) on printed/electronic material "Funded in part by Cass County Tourism" and "Visitcasscounty.com";
  - c) spoken advertising, (e.g. radio), must include, "Funded in part by Cass County Tourism";
  - d) Websites must include: "Funded in part by Cass County Tourism" and Hotlink to "Visitcasscounty.com".
  - e) Grant projects must be completed and expenses paid no later than 12/31/16.
  - f) Copies of bills, receipts, etc. and applicable items, (i.e. fliers, advertisements, radio script, etc.) must be submitted within 60 days of the conclusion of the project/event and sent to: Cass County Tourism, 918 Washington Avenue, Plattsmouth, NE 68048.

2. Melissa Hammons, Car show updates:
  - a) Will approach Village Board on March 9, 2016 to ask permission for N. Park Street, next to Murray State Bank to be blocked off for car show on July 4th.
  - b) Hammons will contact prospective entrants, make all posters and would like to speak with someone who would offer free meals to entrants.
3. Melissa Hammond, Website [www.murrayfreedomfestivalne.com](http://www.murrayfreedomfestivalne.com) has received all necessary changes needed up to this point in time.
4. Todd Morris, owner of Night Visions Fireworks, presented his plan:
  - a) Last year was first year MFF contracted with NV, so most of leg work done then; preliminary work for this year's agreement was done immediately after the 2015 show with then-President, Jack Prall.
  - b) Some previous issues were that young people with beer cans were getting in the way by the pine trees lining Young Park's outfield on the north and east sides. They were hiding in the terraces in the bean field, too.
  - c) MFF shouldn't need to put up any barriers. Security is needed to keep people out of the trees and field.
  - d) Morris reiterated that these are not kids' fireworks. Roughly 1500-2000 pounds of fireworks will be out there.
  - e) NV has a 15-year no accident/no injury.
  - f) Need to set up around 10 a.m.
  - g) No softball games on field on the 4<sup>th</sup>, unless they're over by 10 a.m.
  - h) Could bring on trailers, but it wouldn't be same show, much smaller.
  - i) Rain date will be Tuesday, the 5th. Possibility of following weekend, however once fireworks come out of trailer, someone has to be with them until they're shot off.
  - j) Contract left with Board members to review and sign.
  - k) 50% of balance is due at contract signing.
  - l) Remaining balance due within 10 days after show.
    - a. We can operate a fireworks tent, if we want to pursue that option
    - b. NV provides the fireworks, turn-key operation and MFF can man the tents; or we would get our own permits, tents, etc.
    - c. Morris would need to know by March 31. He'll meet with us to show us what we need.
    - d. Have 11 day-window in which to sell fireworks.
    - e. Best option to buy fireworks is to have own tent. Up-front cost: permits, NV provides insurance to be paid up front. Can make installments, i.e. first payment after 3rd day of sales. Need cash to run tent.
    - f. Would need a semi-trailer with a door in the front like an old food delivery truck w/doors in back and side or fixed building. A tent has to be manned 24/7; trailer or building can be padlocked. Double-door containers work well.
    - g. NV will get all permits, local and state.

- m) Morris prefers to be direct point of contact, since he's the owner, instead of through Jim Howe. a. Best time to reach him is 9-10 a.m. or 8:30 - 9 p.m. at 402-699-4737 or nightvisionsfireworks.com. Address is 57261 225<sup>th</sup>, Glenwood, IA 51534. He distributed business cards to Board members. His busy season starts around April 1st.
- n) Now that MFF has non-profit 501c3 status, Night Visions will probably make a donation later on.

Mike Zeigler, Fundraising Chairman:

- a) Pancake feed:
- b) Thanked everyone for awesome help at pancake feed.
- c) Expenses of supplies and fliers were donated by Zeiglers
- d) Asked Eric Dennis for permission to host another pancake feed at Elementary school on garage sale Saturday, May 21, 2016. Dennis said, 'absolutely', that MFF can use building that day.

General Fundraising:

- a) Let's try to get the biggest part of our contact lists completed by April 1st.
- b) Suggested to attach nonprofit papers, i.e. IRS and State of NE to donation letter.
- c) Matt Lewis has 2 verbal commitments for BP & Beaver Lake Liquor for donations.
- d) Harold Hammons has added Kirsten Trucking and Lyman-Richey to his contact list.

Easter egg Hunt- coffee/doughnuts:

- a) Girl Scouts have agreed for MFF to have coffee and doughnuts at this year's egg hunt at Tyson Park on March 19. (Rain date, March 26).
- b) Zeigler will be in touch with MFF volunteers to arrange.

Pastor Mike Njus, Murray Christian Church:

- a) MCC Board meeting will be tomorrow night, March 2nd.
- b) Njus ask at MCC meeting for verification of food being served on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mike Gillott, Bingo:

- a. Gillott was happy to hear that Eric Dennis offered the use of the Elementary School for Bingo on the 4<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Since restrooms will be available for use at the school, MFF won't have to rent porta-potties, so that will save a lot of money.

- c. Gillott said Town Hall was great, but last year it couldn't accommodate all who wanted to play Bingo, so there were people sitting on the floor.

Ongoing business:

1. Secretary Zeigler submitted two invoices to Treasurer
  - a. Five Cassgram pancake feed ads, \$39, (2 ads @ no charge, due to MFF nonprofit);
    - a. Two Cassgram pancake feed thank you in the amount of \$13, (1 ad @ no charge).
  - b. One invoice, \$36, from Plattsmouth Journal for 2" x 3" pancake feed thank you note. That was a reduced rate, due to MFF being nonprofit
2. Need to post signs for LaVonne Beil
  - a. Beil owns the land south of the Young Park concession stand and generously lends it to MFF for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities. She'd appreciate it if MFF would post signs saying something like it's private property and to please take care of it.
  - b. Board voted unanimously to make signs to post there.
  - c. Pastor Mike Njus suggested Boy and Girl Scouts to clean-up Beil's property the next day.
3. P. Zeigler is also on Village Board meeting agenda with Hensch for Tuesday, March 8 to formally ask permission to use Village and parks for 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.
4. Zeigler and Nikki Lewis will be attending the Plattsmouth Library Volunteer Fair on March 12, 1-3 p.m. to promote MFF.
5. Hensch and Matt Lewis will be checking into liability insurance for MFF.
6. Chris Record was security person last year and will be asked again for this year.
7. Hensch will fill out and send Form 20 to State of Nebraska right away for nonprofit info.

Next meeting will be April 5, 2016, Murray Town Hall, 7 p.m.

M. Lewis moved to adjourn meeting; N. Lewis, seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Zeigler, Secretary

