

2017-08-01

MURRAY FREEDOM FESTIVAL MEETING MINUTES

TRUSTEES in ATTENDANCE: John Hensch, President; Matt Lewis, Co-Vice President; Pat Zeigler, Secretary; George Blessing, Jr., Co-Vice President; Nikki Lewis, Treasurer

PRESENT GUESTS/VOLUNTEERS: Mike Zeigler, Ann Wieringa, Kevin Smith, Mike Gillott

CALL to ORDER at 7:05 p.m. by Lewis.

Motion to approve minutes of June 20, 2017, meeting by Hensch; 2nd by M. Lewis. Motion carried.

Hensch thanked Ann Wieringa of Murray Presbyterian Church for offering snacks during tonight's meeting and, once again, for the use of the church for our meetings while Town Hall is still undergoing remodeling. He also thanked everyone for their hard work in making this year's Festival a success.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- a) Balance forward: \$10,312.38
- b) Deposits: \$5328.59
- c) Debits: \$8,906.84
- d) Ending balance: \$6,734.13.

Motion to accept, Blessing; M. Lewis, 2nd. Motion carried.

SUBMIT BILLS:

- a) Zeigler submitted bills for supplies, i.e. ink, signs, oozeball shower fixtures, etc., in the amount of \$383.02.
- b) Motion to approve payment by Blessing; 2nd by M. Lewis. Motion carried.

2017 FESTIVAL RE-CAP:

1) MURRAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S KIDS' CARNIVAL:

- a) Ann Wieringa said she felt the Kids' Carnival was well-received.
- b) Zeigler stated she'd heard compliments about the Carnival, but especially parents were thrilled that it was free.
- c) Wieringa stated that they felt a bit 'under-staffed' during the activities, but it worked out.
- d) Without the use of electrical power, a generator was loaned for the use of the bounce house, which worked out well, for the most part.
- e) Wieringa also stated that she felt that maybe they closed the Carnival too early in the day, but if they decide to do it in the future, it was suggested that maybe they start later in the morning, and shut down just before parade line-up.
- f) Wieringa said that in spite of few workers, she still wrote out 45 thank you notes for all the little things that made a big difference

2) BINGO:

- a) Mike Gillott stated that he had a pretty good attendance at Bingo.
- b) He suggested that concessions be offered near Bingo for players.
- c) Kudos to Conestoga Elementary Principal, Eric Dennis, for the use of the school for our events.

3) LIVE MUSIC:

- a) M. Lewis stated that the live music provided by Lucas Minor and the Country Mile was very well received.
- b) The other Board members and guests agreed that the band added a lot to the atmosphere of the evening and hoped the band would consider possibly coming back next year.

4) 5K:

- a) Schmeckpepers were unable to be at tonight's meeting, however there were 87 entrants in this year's Fun Run.
- b) M. Gillott suggested that he'd like to have the start/finish line moved next year, so the gate by the Young Park concession stand can stay closed for the day.
- c) With upcoming highway construction starting possibly next spring and going thru 2019, the 5K route will definitely need to be reconsidered and further discussed.

- d) PayPal worked great for those runners signing up beforehand.
- 5) OOZEBALL:
- a) Neither of the oozeball organizers, Judy Simpson or Jessica Vallery, were in attendance tonight
 - b) It was reported that the 26-team limit was met and two teams had to be turned away.
 - c) The oozeball players really appreciated the showers that were provided.
 - d) Mike Zeigler updated and re-constructed the old makeshift shower, with 8 new garden nozzle sprayers and shut-off valves, so that 4 players could rinse off at the same time.
 - e) M. Gillott said that the shower needs to be moved further to the east, on the first-baseline fence, so the mud doesn't accumulate so close to where the emergency vehicles need to park for the fireworks.
 - f) Only a few teams signed-up online beforehand, but most signed-up right before games started.
- 6) CAR SHOW:
- a) Billy Sharp wasn't in attendance tonight.
 - b) Mike Zeigler reported there were 47 vehicles in this year's show.
 - c) A very brief thunderstorm closed the show down at 1:45, as folks were worried about hail.
 - d) In the 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours that the Show was running, donations amounting to \$157 came in at the sign-in table.
- 7) PARADE:
- a) Blessing reported a good turn-out for the parade and line-up went smoothly.
- 8) DANCE CAMP:
- a) Angie Hogue not in attendance, so no results or update of the dance camp.
- 9) THANK YOU:
- a) To Kevin Smith for his continued support and hard work during, not only the event on the 4th, but throughout the year. Kevin helped with the set-up of oozeball tents, watered the courts, directed traffic and any other tasks that popped up. He's a true friend of the Murray Freedom Festival and we appreciate all he does to help.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

1) CONCESSION STANDS:

- a) Murray Christian Church has a long tradition of having their ice cream social and lunch foods during the festivities, which seems to have been working well for them. However, no MCC reps were at tonight's meeting to give an update.
- b) The concession stand at the Car Show, with proceeds going to the Speer family memorial at the school, closed at the same time the brief storm came through. That concession stand did not relocate or open up again the rest of the day.
- c) Brian Miner, owner of Nehawka Bar and Grill, had asked permission late last winter/early spring, to operate the Young Park concession stand with a beer garden, stating that he would secure and pay for all permits.
 - 1) Miner also stated at that time that he'd like to provide music with his house band, Lucas Minor and the Country Mile, (Miner and Minor are not related).
 - 2) Miner was granted permission by the MFF Board, but advised he'd need to seek permission from the Village of Murray and State of Nebraska for permits soon, to allow time for processing.
 - 3) Miner was also advised that activity at that concession area would be sporadic during the day, but he agreed to have enough food and drinks available up until the time that fireworks start.
 - 4) Miner told Zeigler that he would not have the beer garden, but still agreed to have food, water and soft drinks.
 - 5) Fundraising volunteers then had to seek funding for the band.
 - 6) Miner was under- equipped with food and drink and ran out of supplies, so closed the stand around 6 pm.
 - 7) This disappointed many, especially on such a very hot evening, and some people left the park.
- d) It was suggested that in the future, possibly have a couple of food trucks, but the Board would really like the opportunity for local school or civic groups to have first choice at concessions, helping them to earn more revenue for their own groups.

1) GRAND MARSHAL PLAQUE:

- a) Zeigler stated that Murray resident, Jeff Olson, made a Grand Marshal plaque to be hung in Town Hall.
- b) The oak plaque is much larger than the other, which was donated in about 1994 or '96.
- c) Board members decided to hang the plaque vertically, so it would be inside, on the right side of the south Town Hall window, nearest the office, in the lobby area.
- d) Zeigler took the plaque to Main Street Jewelers in Plattsmouth for estimates and suggestions on engraving and showed the Board what was suggested.
- e) All Board members agreed that a larger 8 1/2" x 3 1/2" plaque reading 'Murray Freedom Festival Grand Marshals' be placed horizontally, in the middle of the plaque, with names starting in the upper left corner.
- f) The new plaque will start with the names of those since the 4th of July Association became a nonprofit organization, and renamed 'Murray Freedom Festival'.
- g) Individual name plates would have the year on top, with name below.
- h) Name plates will be mounted with screws, to be read from left to right.
- i) Main Street Jewelers owner, Russ Kathol, said that engraving for just the large plate would run around \$50, and with enough name plates, black with gold trim, notched corners, 3 1/4" x 1", to fill in the plaque, would initially cost about \$175.
- j) One name plate would just need to be taken for engraving each year thereafter.
- k) M. Lewis motioned to accept this plan, Hensch 2nd, all Board members agreed. Motion carried.
- l) P. Zeigler will take the plaque to Kathol for assembly.

GRANT:

- 1) Zeigler is in the process of compiling the 8 grant packets for submission to Cass County Tourism.
- 2) The packets are due no later than September 4, 2017, which is 60 days after the main event.
- 3) If packets turned-in prior to August 14, per Hensch, it's possible that grant reimbursement would be received much earlier.

SUPPLIES:

- 1) Zeigler stated that one or two volleyballs will need to be purchased for next year.
- 2) Hensch expressed an interest in purchasing large banner signs for next year, instead of using the wooden ones. Also, permanent signs for 'Private Property', aka LaVonne Beil's property, which is used for a parking area south of Young Park.
- 3) The Grand Marshal magnetic signs can be stored on the storage shed doors, if the doors are metal. These magnetic signs need to be stored flat, not folded or rolled.
- 4) Discussion about the possible purchase of another large tent or two for use at the car show and possibly at other areas where shade is much-needed.
- 5) Softball tournament would need to be played possibly weekend before, with championship game played on July 3rd, due to fireworks being set-up on the morning of the 4th. Need someone to organize games.
- 6) Zeigler stated that some have requested horseshoe tournaments make a comeback. Horseshoes and stakes are already in storage unit.
 - a) M. Gillott was against horseshoes, stating a liability issue, however it would have to be annotated on the insurance application.
 - b) We would need organizers for horseshoe tournament, also.
- 7) Washer tournaments and corn hole toss games were also discussed.

ELECTIONS:

- 1) Zeigler reminded all that elections will take place at the September 5th meeting.
- 2) Zeigler also announced that she will be resigning her secretarial position, as this position is up for election, along with the President's position.
- 3) M. Lewis motioned for advertising for these positions in Cassgram twice/week until September 5. Blessing, 2nd. Motion carried.
- 4) Zeigler will place ad in Cassgram until September 5, twice per week.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 5, 2017, Murray Presbyterian Church, 7 pm.

As there was no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Zeigler, Secretary