

SPECIAL EVENTS
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 15, 2019

Present: Michael Dougherty, Peggy Schneider, Alaina Rivers, Candy Moore, Sherra Blakley, Wayne Eichelkraut, Jani Eichelkraut and Jim Reilly.

Guests: Heidy Eisert, newly named event coordinator City of Ottawa

Minutes: On a motion by Alaina and second by Jim, minutes from the July meeting were approved.

Financial Report: A total of \$9,071 has been spent. A food bill for Founders Day has yet to be received. A total of \$12,753 remains available, but much of that is allocated to remaining Music in the Park performances.

Action: On a motion Candy and second by Jani, the financial report was approved.

Funding Request: Mayor Dan Aussem and the city have requested an allocation not to exceed \$1000 for portable toilets for a Homecoming Party Sept. 20-22 in the Jordan block, Wayne reported. The event is open to Ottawa and sponsored by Ottawa First, Illinois Valley Building Trades and Shoreline Boat Club. It will feature food and alcohol sales, activities for children, and music and is still being arranged. Proceeds from sales likely will go toward Thornton Park improvements.

Action: On a motion by Jim and second by Sherra, the funding was allocated.

Old Business:

Don Gillette honor: The committee picked up an issue first raised last fall upon the retirement of longtime member Don Gillette from the committee. Gillette also contributed thousands of hours to arranging parades and hosting music events. Heidy informed the committee that Don has been hospitalized, so she will consult Kim Czyz, who's been in touch with the family, about when to proceed.

Music in the Park: Members reviewed the series thus far. Overall reaction from audiences remains strong; audiences are averaging 250 per event – or fewer on the 2 occasions events moved indoors. Three more events remain in the series.

Riverfest Parade: The city is looking at all events it hosts through the year for viability and improvements. Alaina and Heidy have had input. As for the Riverfest parade, Alaina has asked that the custom of charging business entry fees (\$75/vehicle) be reviewed, since several other cities do not charge fees. Ottawa does not charge non-profit organizations to participate. Other issues are start time and staging location, route and reviewing stand location. Jim reported he had attended the Mendota Sweet Corn Fest parade which had a shorter, shadier route, more entries and sponsors. This issue will continue to be discussed at future meetings.

Festival of Lights Parade: Alaina pointed out that we want to make sure that whoever plays Santa and Mrs. Claus understand that, in addition to riding on the float, they will be expected to dismount the carriage and mingle in the park. Many families traditionally remain onsite after the lighting ceremony to greet and meet the Clauses. We don't know who the characters will be, but the city owns the Santa costume. She added that by reserving early, Ottawa has secured lighted holiday-themed floats from one of the float suppliers.

New Business:

New events for children: Wayne reported that the Mayor and city have assigned the Special Events Committee to develop additional events for children, such as movie nights or swimming pool parties or bouncy-house parties. Funding will be made available, he said.

Adjournment: 7:45 p.m. **The next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2019, at 5:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Schneider