

**SPECIAL EVENTS**  
**MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 22, 2018**

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

**Absent:** Don Gillette and Nancy Stisser.

**Guest:** Anna Wright, events coordinator, Tangled Roots Brewing Co. Anna joined in SEC's discussion of its summer music series so the two groups could coordinate their lineups. Tangled Roots will again host a Friday night concert series from 6-8 p.m. through the summer.

**Funding Requests:** There were 2.

- 1) The Ottawa Easter Egg Hunt Committee requested \$2,000 (double last year's request) for the third annual hunt, which is being expanded to include more children, activities and more diverse capabilities. The money would go toward prizes to fill the eggs, the expanded "empowerment" area for children with disabilities, and insurance, according to the request. The event takes place March 31 at Peck Park.

Discussion ensued over the amount, with Wayne objecting that as one of the organization's biggest donor/sponsors, SEC gets minimal billing on publicity materials. Other members noted that SEC still has money left in its budget and the hunt is a worthy cause benefitting local children.

**Action:** Jim moved to award the hunt \$2,000, then later amended his motion to specify that SEC receive top billing. The original and amended motions died for lack of seconds and the item was tabled briefly.

**Action:** After more discussion, Candy moved SEC allocate \$1,500 to the hunt. Sherra seconded the motion, and the committee approved the allocation.

- 2) Wide Waters Yacht Club at Starved Rock Marina requested \$2,000 towards entertainment when it hosts the annual Miss River Bottom contest in June. Discussion about the request centered around WWYC's location outside the city limits and whether a city-funded organization should finance money to events outside the city.

Peggy pointed out that the committee's funding comes from hotel/motel tax, and Wayne noted that the funding comes from the city (which collects the tax). Historically, the committee has had different goals from the Visitors Center, which also is funded through hotel/motel tax to create activities and benefits to tourists as well as residents. But historically, the SEC has created or sponsored events that benefit residents.

On the basis of discussion, Jim wondered what the committee's guidelines are and whether it is prevented from funding events that don't directly benefit local merchants or residents.

**Action:** On a motion by Jim and second by Candy, the committee tabled action on the WWYC request until it could determine whether it could fund events outside the city limits.

Jim also suggested that if current guidelines discourage such allocations, the committee might consider seeking amendments to its guidelines to authorize such allocations.

**Minutes:** On a motion by Jani and second by Alaina, minutes from the November (and last) meeting were approved.

**Santa Claus retirement:** After the November meeting, the committee learned that Ottawa's resident Santa and Mrs. Claus, Jerry and Pat Curl, were retiring both from the parade and the Santa house. A community effort to show appreciation for the Curls' devotion to their roles over the past 2 decades resulted in presentation of a check to the couple, and the SEC wanted to present its annual appreciation at the same time. Discussion and vote via email resulted in the presentation of a \$100 gift from the committee.

**Financial Status:** About \$4,500 remains unallocated in the committee's budget. Another \$2,000 is earmarked for a spring movie event.

**Action:** On a motion by Jani and second by Sherra, the committee approved the financial report.

**Old Business:**

**Festival of Lights Parade:** Members reviewed the event.

**Music in the Park:** Members discussed a lineup for the event. Dates will be July 7 and 14 (likely Patriotic and Gospel nights) and July 21 and 28 and August 11, 18 and 25. A lineup of acts was established and Peggy and Alaina will contact those acts for pricing and to see if they can perform.

**Adjournment:** 7:05 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2018, at 5:30 p.m.**

*Respectfully submitted by Peggy Schneider*