

SPECIAL EVENTS
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 18, 2011

Present: Don Gillette, Phyllis Revell, Peggy Schneider, Mike Dougherty, Elaine Baker, Jim Reilly, Wayne Eichelkraut, Heidi Eisert and Nancy Stisser. Joyce Kellogg was introduced as a prospective new member.

Absent: Jani Eichelkraut.

Guests: Ann Savio, Jaci Emerson and Beverly Hucker representing the Illinois Valley Quilt Guild; Adam Wampler representing the International Association of Fire Fighters 9-11 memorial ride; DeWayne Cronkright and Donna Reynolds representing Ottawa Downtown Merchants.

Request for Funds:

- 1) The IV Quilt Guild requested \$2,240 for hall rental, quilt rack rental and advertising expenses for its 2012 quilt show March 24-25. The biannual show is expected to attract 400-600 people. In addition to displays by local quilters and booths by vendors, the show will feature a display of the 2012 Pilgrim Roy Invitational Challenge, 16 quilts designed by nationally known quilters on loan from the National Quilt Museum.

ACTION: Elaine made the motion to grant the guild \$750 for hall rental. Peggy seconded. Motion passed.

DISCUSSION: The committee acknowledged the guild charges admission and vendor space rental. Also, after allocations, the SEC has about only \$3,500 left for future requests.

- 2) Adam Wampler of the Ottawa Fire Fighters requested \$500 to provide a meal to welcome motorcycle riders coming from out West to head to New York City for the 10th anniversary of 9-11, in an activity called Heroes Across America. About 125 riders will group at the Starved Rock Harley-Davidson parking lot, be entertained at Shakers, spend the night, and receive a tour of local sites before continuing on to the East Coast. SR Harley-Davidson, Handy Foods, Shakers, Ottawa Visitors Center, and the state and international associations of fire fighters are helping defray expenses.

Wampler said he eventually hoped to promote Ottawa as a prospective site for the 2014 IAFF rally, which could bring up to 1,000 riders to the area.

ACTION: Jim made the motion to allocate \$500 to the IAFF activity. Phyllis seconded. Motion passed.

DISCUSSION: Although the activity will not draw spectators, Elaine suggested communities needed to do all they can to help out on the 9-11 remembrance. Don noted that the support could help attract the 2014 rally.

- 3) Ottawa Downtown Merchants requested funding for three upcoming events: Scarecrow Festival on Sept. 24 (\$2,500); Pumpkinpalooza on Oct. 29 (\$1,000) and Ice Odyssey on Dec. 10 (\$4,000). All of the requests exceeded last year's requests. DeWayne explained the three events. Scarecrow Fest continues an Ottawa tradition of family activities downtown; Pumpkinpalooza features trick-or-treating and children's activities, and Ice Odyssey features a display of ice sculptures and demonstrations of ice carving. He also explained that a pie auction held every year for three years has helped raised money for the organization, but that ODM also depends on city assistance to keep and improve the events. All three events have become popular attractions in the community.

ACTION: Jim moved to allocate \$2,000 to Scarecrow Festival, which is what the event received last year. Don seconded. Motion passed.

ACTION: Elaine moved to allocate \$3,000 to Ice Odyssey, to be used toward a deposit to secure the sculptor. Phyllis seconded. Motion passed. The event received the same amount last year.

DISCUSSION: Don suggested the merchants seek funding assistance from the Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce. DeWayne said ODM now receives promotion assistance from the chamber as well as from the Ottawa Visitors Center.

DISCUSSION: DeWayne had indicated that plans are not finalized for Pumpkinpalooza, so no money was allocated for the event at this time.

There was no further correspondence.

New Business:

- 1) Elaine volunteered to host the final Music in the Park Aug. 27.
- 2) Peggy volunteered to assist Heidi in planning the 2011 Festival of Lights parade. Professional float providers will be contacted since their floats were such a hit at last year's parade, and they also provided a float for the 2011 Riverfest parade. Local floats and marchers will also be invited to participate..

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 15, at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Schneider.