

SPECIAL EVENTS
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

Present: Don Gillette, Peggy Schneider, Mike Dougherty, Elaine Baker, Jim Reilly, Joyce Kellogg, and Nancy Stisser.

Absent: Jani Eichelkraut, Wayne Eichelkraut, Phyllis Revell, Heidi Eisert.

Guests: Kevin Steward, representing Ottawa Elks Club.

Request for Funds:

- 1) The Elks Club requested \$570 towards the costs of its annual Polkafest, scheduled for October 15 outside the Elks Club. The money would be used to defray expenses of advertising, portable toilet rental and a band. A couple hundred people are expected to attend. Admission is free, and the event is open to the public, but there are charges for food and drink.

ACTION: Don made the motion to grant the Elks \$300 to cover a band. Jim seconded. Motion passed.

DISCUSSION: Mike questioned why the group never asked for funding before for a long-standing event. Kevin said the event is being undertaken by new organizers who decided to explore funding options.

There was no further correspondence.

Minutes: Minutes for the past three months were read and approved. On a motion by Mike and a second by Elaine, June minutes were approved. On a motion by Elaine and a second by Joyce, July minutes were approved. On a motion by Elaine and a second by Mike, August minutes were approved.

Financial report: Nancy reviewed the financial report. After all standing obligations are met, the committee will have about \$2,300 of unallocated funds. Nancy noted that several events during the year have not used their full allocation. No decision has been made whether to offer a spring movie, as has been done in the past, and nothing has been heard from the city on whether the committee will be asked to help out with upcoming Morel or Wine festivals.

Old Business: Peggy gave a report on progress for the 2011 Festival of Lights Parade and the committee discussed ways to improve traffic flow in the lineup.

New Business:

- 1) Nancy relayed the mayor's call to the committee to explore options for a smaller stage that could be used in Washington Square Park for Music in the Park events and which could sometimes replace the larger stage set up on Jackson Street. The large stage eats up parking spaces, eats of vending space at the weekly farmers

market and audience and musicians alike have asked to stage the concerts more in the grassy park than on the street.

- 2) Nancy reported that Ottawa Downtown Merchants are proposing some additions and changes to Ice Odyssey, including a walk-through ice castle and ice-brick etchings. Admission could be charged for the castle and the etchings would be sold to help raise additional money for the event.
- 3) Nancy also invited SEC members to volunteer to help out at Scarecrow Fest should there be a shortage of volunteers for the event.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 20, at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Schneider.