

**SPECIAL EVENTS**  
**MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES – October 17, 2013**

Present: Don Gillette, Heidy Eisert, Alaina Rivers, Mike Dougherty, Joyce Kellogg, Jim Reilly, Elaine Baker, Peggy Schneider and Nancy Stisser

Absent: Phyllis Revell, Wayne and Jani Eichelkraut

Guests: Alaina Rivers was welcomed as an official member of the SEC Committee. She has been in charge of the Festival of Lights and Riverfest parades for the past few years as well as other aspects of events the City hosts so she will be a great asset to the SEC team.

Minutes: Minutes of the September 19, 2013 were approved as published.

Financial Report: All line items expended to date have remained within their budgeted amount for this fiscal year. Contingency account balance does not reflect 1 invoice not yet received, \$300 for Elks Musicfest.

Requests for Funds: None

Old Business:

In a follow-up from the September meeting, Nancy reported she did check with Julie Johnson of the OVC regarding how event items are selected for the Heritage Corridor Events Guide. Julie indicated that the OVC submits every October everything they know that has definite dates for the following year. The HC determines what gets printed. SEC members agreed they felt that all events should be included. For now, the 2014 Music In The Park series is the only date specific item that the OVC can be made aware of from the SEC. Mike Dougherty expressed concern that there is a possibility of event overlapping in 2014 at the time of the annual Cruise Night. Nancy will check on that with organizers of the WineFest and the Lions Club carnival and get a memo to the City Council if needed. A discussion was held regarding the coordination and/or overlapping of events held in the community. It was noted that the OVC usually has a master calendar of events but they can only include those events they know about and not all organizations "report" their event plans in advance.

New Business:

Alaina reported on the FOL parade progress and showed float options. It was decided that if possible, she would rent a total of 9 floats (\$6400) for this year's parade but that the committee would leave all final decisions and choices up to Alaina and Heidy. It was agreed that eliminating on street parking after 5:00 p.m. in the 700, 800 and 900 blocks of LaSalle Street is in the best interest of a safer parade. The placement of barricades at the Jackson and LaSalle Street corner and police presence last year seemed to help considerably with the crowding into the parade entries pathway. Committee volunteers will be finalized at the November SEC meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Acting Secretary, Nancy Stisser

the Ottawa Visitors Center, which is Ottawa's link to the HC Convention and Visitors Bureau, what can be done to get more Ottawa events listed.

In another related issue, Don's proposal to send thank-you notes to the First United Methodist Church near the concert site for allowing concert-goers to use their restrooms and to Mueller Funeral Home for the use of their folding chairs was authorized.

**New Business**

Nancy produced a Times newspaper insert promoting the Streator classic car show, and wondered why Ottawa's Cruise Night did not receive similar coverage. The committee acknowledged that many Ottawa events get shortchanged in favor of similar events in other communities. Mike Dougherty reminded members that he has made direct contact with the paper in the past regarding this issue and he was told that it is because the sales staff is more aggressive in the Streator area which generates the monies to publish the annual insert.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 17, at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Schneider.