

**Durand Improvement Group  
Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2024**

Members present: Mike Norby, Wendy Brantner, Scott Sabelko, LeAnna Kavanaugh, Kim Bauer (Batter & Bowls)  
Others present: Josie (Bridge to Hope)

Meeting called to order – 6:00 PM

Public comments: Josie introduced himself; he is from Bridge to Hope. Jamie was previously in this role. Josie is looking to connect with businesses and non-profit organizations. He has joined Funfest and DIG and will start attending more meetings. It was suggested that he be in contact with Mary Wood through Extension. Wendy asked if there is anything her 4-H Club can donate? Josie stated that they are looking for things that can be helpful in a shelter. Maybe a summer donation drive.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by LeAnna, seconded by Scott. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.  
No Financial Report as Val was not able to attend the meeting.

Mike also stated that he still needs to send in the membership for PCHS and the by-laws to a lawyer for review.

**Committee Reports:**

**Dog Park:** No updates for the dog park. LeAnna still needs to get approval from the DNR and Pepin County.

**Funfest:** Funfest is ‘even steven’. Scott did envelope stuffing for sponsorship letters. Two have been sent back already. Mike still needs to talk to the City about logistics and possibly ask Deb for more volunteers in the paper. There is a very real chance that this is the last Funfest.

**New Business:**

**City Funding:** No update, Mike reached out to Scott to get an update and to invite him to the business expo. We requested \$12-\$15,000 last year, which is the largest ever, and sent a detailed report. DIG needs a new gator. The last gator was purchased in 2016 from Chippewa Falls but it was already very used. Adam takes the best care of it as he can. The parking brake does not work, and you can only get up to a couple of miles per hour. There are no funds to replace it. Hoping to continually get \$5,000 donated anonymously every year. The hope would be to get a gator with a bigger space to accommodate the water tank. Mike saw one in Eau Claire on 85/37 highway that might be what we were looking for, but it was gone quickly. If we had a donor they could advertise it.

**Feedback on Small Business Empowerment:** Disappointed in Mark. Mike wants to let him know how we felt. Harlie from Eau Claire SBDC will have three people coming to the expo.

**Business Expo – April 17, 2024:** LeAnna contacted WHEDA, Momentum West, Rural Development, Red Letter Grant, Amber Grant for Women, Second Service Foundation, MRRPC, DWD, WI Procurement Institute. Could be a good idea to have a lawyer donate time. How to start an LLC workshop. The question was asked if we could start doing workshops. Possible hosting locations are Club TEN, Corral, Golf Course, Rod and Gun, Brewery, Masonic, Senior Center, and Cell Block. We will do another in May and advertise it at the Business Expo. Need to reach out to non-profits to have them set up. Health Department and Extension Department. No fees for Non-Profits. Reach out to the Senior Center for the next workshop. Possibly have a suggestion box at the next event for small businesses. We should also have our own booth at the expo.

**Memberships:** No membership updates, a few have come in so far.

**Music in the Park:** Had a lot of ideas this year to get more community involvement. Too much to have Taste of Durand at the same time as a car show. Maybe touch a truck at the same time? Pushing June Dairy Month and have touch a truck. Pierce Pepin wanted to sponsor a MITP, we said we can't have just one sponsor, but a booth is fine, wanted to do a \$100 member bill credit. No response to email.

June: Touch a truck and Dairy  
July: Normal  
August: Taste of Durand

**Scholarships:** Post scheduled for tomorrow. We have two scholarships of \$500. The banquet is in May.

**Comments and Issues for Future Consideration:**

- Update on Logo – Brittany said it would be a three week turnaround. If not heard from by the end of next week, Mike will reach out.
- Flower baskets went to the greenhouse last week.
- We will start doing a business shout out in May, need to send out a questionnaire.
- Mike is looking for drone photography.
- Bauer Built has an 80<sup>th</sup> celebration on June 21<sup>st</sup>

Next general meeting: April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6 PM

Meeting adjourned: 8:15 PM