

**Durand Improvement Group  
Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2024**

Members present: Mike Norby, Tanya Smeltzer, Jeni Whitwam (Ntec), LeAnna Kavanaugh, Wendy Brantner, Val Cataract, Sara Casey (Go Lake Pepin)

Visitors present: Sarah Sippl (USDA), Gina Dyess (Bearfish Brew)

Meeting called to order – 6:02 PM

Public comments: None

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Wendy, seconded by Val. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial: Motion made by LeAnna, seconded by Wendy. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**Dog Park:** Got a letter of support from Pepin County. LeAnna is in contact with DNR. May need a Wetland permit; LeAnna will apply for one just in case. Letter will be presented at the next City Council meeting.

**Funfest:** Everything going smoothly. Pam and Greg Heit selected for Grand Marshall and respectfully declined.

**New Business:**

**Rural Partners Network (USDA):** Sarah Sippl brought program information to share for RPN. Newer program in the state to assist rural areas with economic growth. They're partnered with over 20 different federal agencies and regional commissions. Can assist with finding funding for projects, finding grant writers, or conducting surveys for rural development. On June 4<sup>th</sup> they will be having a meeting regarding outdoor recreation. If we apply for any federal grants for outdoor recreation, be sure to mention that we are part of the RPN. Sarah could come talk if something is set up with the city regarding setting up room tax. They can also work with individual businesses. Most funding for arts / culture – such as for the bandshell – is philanthropic. May be able to find funding for separate updates – historical restorations, structural, and additions could all be different sources. Sarah can send us an e-mail for possible options – she mentioned the T-Mobile Hometown Grant. They are hosting an event in Rothschild on June 13<sup>th</sup> for business development and will have more focused events in the future.

**Music in the Park:** June – Youth Fishing Contest will do root beer floats if they can get the wagon plus hot dogs, Wendy can talk to St. John's about doing desserts, Blues will be doing walking tacos. July - St. John's will do desserts, Blues will be doing BBQ, Methodist Church will do hot dogs and brats with chips. Need to get the names to Pete for getting the sponsor banner printed.

**Comments and Issues for Future Consideration:** None

Next general meeting: June 10, 2024 at 6 PM

Meeting adjourned: 7:33 PM