

Durand Improvement Group Meeting Minutes – September 11, 2023

Members present: Mike Norby, Tanya Smeltzer, Valerene Cataract, Jordin Holmes, LeAnna Kavanaugh, Wendy Brantner, Kim Bauer (Batter & Bowls), Janelle Vogel (Club 10)

Meeting called to order – 6:00 PM

Approval of financial: Approved with revision to starting budget

Approval of minutes: Approved by all

Committee Reports:

Dog Park: Worried about conflict of interest with Marron possibly wanted to expand one day. Opposite side of Tarrant Park is the next location being considered. Some of the woods would be cleared out. Would not be going through the culvert but discussed the possibility of separating out two areas for the park. Will need to meet with the city and work on grants. LeAnna will put a plan together to present. If this option doesn't work, Holden Park is another option to look into, but it isn't preferred.

Funfest: Current options are either keeping at Memorial Park and adjusting how things are placed or moving to Tarrant Park. The issue with Tarrant Park is how displaced it is from downtown. Met with the city and they indicated they would be in support of anything within reason, so the committee met and decided to keep it at Memorial Park for the next two years. One street will be torn up for construction next year which will add another layer of complexity for setup. Mike has worked on a couple of maps for how it could be laid out. Splitting up rides appears to be the only option for layout. Beer tent would be moved onto the street and the carnival would be split based on whether we can get permission to use the lot on main or close additional portions of the street. Scott said he would talk with the City Council and Public Works to see about the feasibility of closing part of Main Street for 2024 while Madison is closed for construction. Also need to determine electrical options for the next year or two and will need to request more funding from the city. Thoughts about putting the car show, craft fair, and brats down along the river. Bands still need to be booked.

Trunk or Treat: Plan to hand out candy again to represent DIG. Have a tent in the bandshell and a table. Jordin will reach out to Christina. Theme - Disney, mummies, and Willy Wonka all suggested. Wendy can send pictures of the décor she has for Willy Wonka, and we can use that. Agreed upon this theme. October 28th from 3 – 5 PM.

Dazzle Day: Rick and Tammy Smeltzer agreed to be Santa and Mrs. Clause. Need to get sizes for suits for Santa and Mrs. Clause so they can be ordered. Purchasing our own would be better than renting so we have it every year. If anyone knows someone who sews who is willing to donate their time, we will provide the materials. Keep doing kidpalooza – games, cookies, and activities as in past years. The Masonic Lodge may no longer be available. If still available, it would be preferred. City Hall or Senior Center are options to investigate. Jordin can check on City Hall. The school after the craft sale is another option to consider – has more space but the location is less ideal. We will need to buy a new Christmas tree; Wendy has a tree that she isn't using and offered up. Val will order the cookies, and Jordin will order decorations for the kidpalooza. We would like to order a nicer mailbox for putting the letters to Santa in. Kim and Janelle both have popcorn poppers we could use, and Wendy has a hot chocolate stand. Jordin has popcorn she can provide. Wendy will look into getting individual milk. Discussed adjusting decoration placement so there's a path through the decorations. If not along the sidewalk, would need someone to maintain the path through the snow. We will need more extension cords. Discussed and agreed to donate money to the 4H club to cover new decorations for the park; the board voted and agreed we will reimburse up to \$500. Also agreed to allot up to \$300 for games and decorations for the kidpalooza. Tic-tac-toe as a game option. LeAnna will bring the backdrop for photos. Discussed having a photographer (Teddy Snyder) to take photos. Jordin, LeAnna, and Mike will do the parade line-up.

Music in the Park: Need to start booking for next year. Haven't heard back from White Side Walls yet but are hoping to book them again for June or August. Two Frets Up have performed for July; consider them again for next year. Mike can check on pricing for Chris Kroeze for August. If he is unavailable or out of the price range, Mike suggested pushing White Side Walls back to August for the Taste of Durand. Kim also brought up concerns about the decrease in business from having a different band during Taste of Durand this year. Discussed having Chris Kroeze for either Funfest or Music in the Park. Bear Creek Band, Half Shebang, and Bennett Valley Gray bands suggested as options. Jordin can reach out to get quotes. Kim suggested having other businesses or non-profits come out with booths to answer questions and display information about their businesses.

Old Business:

Poker Run – Fifteen participants, but there were other conflicting events that limited participation. \$410 earned for the event after the winners were paid out. Pepin County Humane Society needs building repairs. We discussed and voted - all agreed to donate the full sum to the humane society.

Flowers – Kim has offered to take a basket to local greenhouses to get an idea of cost; will get her one to take. We would like to increase the number of baskets for next year (at least one on each post). We will need new hooks. Some baskets are still at Schaul's.

New Business:

Budget - Still need to pay for Trunk or Treat, porta potties, and Dazzle Day costs. Need to submit budget request to the city. Flowers will be a large cost. Also discussed getting a new UTV to replace the current gator and a larger watering tank; this will be an even larger cost.

Room tax - City of Durand would need to apply for the room tax and set an ordinance. Anything within city limits (hotel, VRBO, or AirBnb) would have this room tax applied. DIG may be eligible to collect room tax which must go toward promotion of tourism or actual structures (such as community center). The bandshell would be eligible if proof can be provided it's the reason transient tourism comes to Durand (Blues and Funfest are the two biggest events in town with that at the center). The city of Durand could also set up a tourism commission that would be eligible to receive the tax dollars. LeAnna will set up a call to discuss this and then reach out to Scott about this.

Scholarship – Mike put together an improved scholarship application with guidelines and a form to fill out. Go back to two scholarship winners this year and get the applications out earlier in the year.

Next general meeting: October 9, 2023

Meeting adjourned: 8:43 PM