

Durand Improvement Group Meeting Minutes – June 19, 2023

Members present: Mike Norby, Tanya Smeltzer, Valerene Cataract, Jordin Holmes, Jeni Whitwam (Ntec), Wendy Brantner, Katie Hartung

Meeting called to order – 6:08 PM

Approval of financial: Approved by all

Approval of minutes: Approved by all

Committee Reports:

Memberships: A couple still coming in. Memberships are higher this year.

Music in the Park: First one is this Wednesday (June 21st). Wendy Brantner and Jeni Whitwam will be available to help this year. The Methodist church (burgers and brats), 4-H (desserts), Youth Fishing (hot dogs and dairy wagon), and Blues on the Chippewa (walking tacos) will be present this month. Wendy can check with Avery to see if she's available for face painting this week and for the next two months. White Side Walls will be there at 3 PM. Camper is taken care of, and Val will be taking care of the food. St. John's Church and Blues on the Chippewa will be attending in July. Jordin suggested doing a hot dog booth with Maloney's Baloney food for July and checking with Kwik Trip about donating hot dog buns, chips, and water. The request to Kwik Trip will need to be online, so Jordin will contact them this week. Need to get Taste of Durand invites out by the end of the month – offer to all Durand businesses, and then to all areas in the 5-mile radius after a two-week period.

Dog Park: Mike will reach out about this. May need to call a meeting to get up to date on this.

Poker Run: Jordin has the flyer figured out and has everything for printing the flyers. Route may need to change to go from Arkansaw straight to Pepin.

Flower baskets: Location needed to change somewhat, but they're all placed and looking good despite the drought. The clips will need to be replaced due to rust. Would still like to look into the Amish greenhouse, but the number of baskets is a good number. Wendy can check with the other greenhouse.

Dazzle Day: At least one attendee of the Queen's Tea has expressed disappointment in the lack of events in the park at this point. The changes in insurance surrounding animals and lack of volunteers have made this more difficult to do. Should we do a decoration drive this year to decorate other areas of town? Concern would be that donations will be lights that no longer work, etc. We need better posts for decorations to stand up in the park. Can put out a "sponsor a deer" option where people can sponsor the deer decorations to put out at one of the parks. Students need community service hours, so we could reach out about doing something during the week for having kids help getting things set up. We need more extension cords and timers for any new decorations. Should we have a separate sponsor board/banner for businesses to donate money for decorations? Need to find another way to provide recognition for volunteers who help. For specific items donated / sponsored, could do individualized signs indicating which item they sponsored. We could have a community day where multiple businesses and/or students come out to set up on the same day and socialize with a hot cocoa bar or similar. Put together a wish list for the decorations that they would choose from for sponsorship; Jeni can investigate setting something like this up. Wendy would be willing to set up a photo display area for families to take pictures. We need to find someone to play Santa. Tree decorating has very few participants, so putting this money towards other decorations seems more beneficial at this point. Can do an ugly sweater contest or go back to the virtual decoration contests (tree or house).

Social media/website: Currently have someone who assists with social media, but there's no oversight on what is being posted. Concerns have been made that posts shouldn't be made about private businesses and that only board members should have access to make these posts on behalf of the group. Mike will reach out about putting this in the hands of the board.

Old Business:

Received thank-yous from Teen Court, 4-H Leader Federation, and the scholarship recipient.

Fun Fest – the parking lot that the carnival sets up in has been sold, so a new location will be needed for the future. Mike has reached out to Scott about how to go forward. If we only had music or the carnival, it could remain where it is, but with both the space is too limited. Tarrant Park could potentially be an option or investigate the 5 acres that was originally targeted for the dog park. Closing roads could help but requires permits that could be difficult to obtain. Hoping the city will be willing to

accommodate whatever change is needed. Craft fair didn't have as good of a turnout for some with the location. Family Feud had a good turn out; would like to continue doing it but with more information for the contestants. Beer tent closing instructions could be helpful as well. Good year overall. The future is up to the discretion of the city. A pro-wrestling company in Chippewa has expressed interest about participating in Fun Fest, but we haven't had room to accommodate in the past.

Next general meeting: July 10, 2023

Meeting adjourned: 7:49 PM