

Durand Improvement Group Meeting Minutes – November 13, 2023

Members present: LeAnna Bender, Mike Norby, Tanya Smeltzer, Jordin McMahon, Val Cataract, Wendy Brantner, Jeni Whitwam (Ntec)

Visitors present: Scott Sabelko

Meeting called to order – 6:02 PM

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Val, seconded by Jordin

Approval of Financial: Motion made by Jordin, seconded by Mike

Committee Reports:

Dog Park: Health department grant – will find out in December. Two options in town remain at this point – one acre on the far side of Tarrant or Marion Foods (if they expand this could impact it). If things with the city don't work out, Pam with Pepin County has suggested discussing the possibility of having it in Holden Park (3 to 5 acres). The ones in other cities require driving to, so this wouldn't be much different from the norm. A grant was just received to put in showers and flushing toilets at the park, so this would make the location even better. LeAnna will create a Google form to put a survey out regarding location.

Funfest: Still in limbo. Discussed location at previous meeting. Consensus from the city and community members is that it remains in Memorial Park. This is also dependent on how the carnival feels about this and if there are enough volunteers. Next meeting is on December 4th. Question arose about if some activities would move down by the river – such as bands or beer tent; this would be a concern with flooding potential or intoxicated individuals near the water. Consideration has been given to whether we could close part of Main Street for the weekend. Certain activities must be kept away from power lines, so that limits use of roads around the park. Tarrant Park would still be a better option due to the space limitations around Memorial Park given the recent land sales.

Dazzle: Parade Marshall suggestions – 16 were given via the survey. All agreed to ask Brian Winnekins if he will be the Grand Marshall this year. Val reached out to him, and he has accepted. Mike will check the flash drive for the map for the parade line-up. If it's not there, Jordin said she will get it sorted out. So far only 10 parade entries have been submitted. Typically, they come in the week of. Walkers and animals are lined up by the laundromat and floats line up on the other side of Hwy 10.

Discussed if there will be a Queen's Tea this year. Durand doesn't currently have royalty, but it's a fairly hands-off event. Wendy has offered to be there for it and can contact Prospect Place to see if we could do it there. If not there, we can check if we can have it at City Hall. Jeni indicated that Ntec can donate snacks for this and will work with Wendy to get this put together.

Lima Lads and Lassies put the decorations up at the parks. Wendy brought a letterbox for the letters to Santa and will be providing a tree. We will be decorating for Kidpalooza on Friday night (tentative 6 PM). Wendy suggested putting together brown lunch bags with snacks for the kids (peanuts, apple / orange, candy canes, etc); all agree that this is a good idea. Wendy will get these put together with the 4-H club. Durand Fresh Market may be willing to donate. Check with Fresh Market first to keep it local, then check with Kwik Trip next. May be able to get donations from Wal-Mart / Sam's Club for these if not the first two. LeAnna can reach out regarding this. Jordin will order more crafts (Christmas scratch art) for Kidpalooza; she has giant Jenga, Yahtzee, and the games in the bandshell still. We also need to get the letters for Santa printed out. Jeni can get the letter template printed out (50 copies) and coloring sheets.

Need to pick judges – LeAnna will ask her friend Alyssa if she's interested and see if she has other friends who would also be interested. Discussed where to put the mini donuts and coffee; need to ask Christina what their power requirements are to determine if the clock park is an option. Need to get the stage for the judges lined up – Bauer Built has provided it in the past. We could mark off the space and put out a table to avoid needing to coordinate getting a trailer set up / taken down.

Wendy can ask her son if we can use his truck for Santa and Mrs. Claus. Need a couple of chairs to put in the back.

Music in the Park: White Side Walls has changed their contract requiring stagehands be provided or an additional fee be paid to cover hiring of them. This will bring them up to \$3,000. Chris Kroeze would be the same rate. Scott suggested looking into Johnny Holmes. Half Shebang was also suggested. Caged Acoustic was one that played at Club 10 and was well received. Six Figure Sunrise was also suggested as a possible option. Due to the price increase, discussed who to have for Taste of Durand and agreed to ask Chris Kroeze if he will do August.

New Business:

Mike nominated Wendy for the board and LeAnna seconded. Vote issued and all in favor.

Board nominations for the upcoming years – Jordin is stepping down from seeking re-election. Elections will be in January.

Business Expo – idea presented to have businesses host this if they're interested. Wendy said she would be interested in hosting the next one.

DIG open house – have businesses and community members come together. Invite speakers / local political figures to attend. Possibly combine with the business expo, but this may be too much at once. Club 10 suggested as a potential location for this event. Tentative date of January 24th from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. DIG presentation from 6 to 6:30 PM, followed by the speaker to give some time for people to arrive. Speaker suggestions: Warren Petryk, Jeff Smith, someone who could talk about opportunities available to small business owners or those looking to start a business. LeAnna will get some names to us (Momentum West – Ray French). Agreed that it would be better to get a speaker to discuss economic development rather than a political figure. LeAnna will reach out once we have the date officially set. Mike can reach out to Club 10 to get this arranged. This event can be used to reach out to hopefully find more volunteers. Finger foods with a bowling or golf simulator give away.

Financials – Mike would like to see an overall copy of everything to get a good idea of the year overall. This will help to get everything on a calendar for when money is expected to come out and money is needed to come in.

Next general meeting: December 11, 2023
Meeting adjourned: 8:28 PM

Next Board meeting: December 14, 2023