

Durand Improvement Group Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2024

Members present: Mike Norby, Tanya Smeltzer, Val Cataract, Wendy Brantner, Jeni Whitwam (Ntec), Scott Sabelko, LeAnna Kavanaugh, Kim Bauer (Batter & Bowls)

Meeting called to order – 6:03 PM

Public comments: No comments.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by LeAnna, seconded by Tanya. 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:

Funfest: Continuing to get everything planned – finishing up the music lineup (almost completed). Plan is still at Memorial Park.

Dog Park: Had a meeting with City of Durand with Scott and Matt about using land over by Tarrant Park. There's a flood plain by the softball field that we are now looking at – about 3 to 5 acres. Maria from Pepin County will be writing a letter of support about using the land down by the softball field. Maria got in contact with the DNR and the DNR does not have a problem with the use of it but wants to see what the plan would be, and no heavy equipment would be allowed. We need to put together a plan to submit for approval and then hold a forum for public comment. The one big concern on our part would be mosquitoes, but this is an issue throughout the area. Roger Hillstead also reached out about using the land next to the brewery if the land in the city doesn't work out.

Old Business:

Dazzle Day: Went well overall. Attendance lower than would have liked for Kidpalooza. Kim suggested trying fliers for kids to take home from school that talk about the event. Queen's Tea was good – snacks, white elephant gift exchange, Christmas Pictionary. Need to send a thank-you for the use of Prospect Place.

New Business:

Vote and approval of new Board of Directors:

President: Mike Norby – motion to approve by Tanya. Seconded by LeAnna. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Vice-President: Wendy Brantner – motion to approve by Kim. Seconded by Val. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Secretary: Tanya Smeltzer – motion to approve by LeAnna. Seconded by Kim. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Treasurer: Val Cataract – motion to approve by LeAnna. Seconded by Tanya. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

At Large Director: LeAnna – motion to approve by Wendy. Seconded by Tanya. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

At Large Director: Scott Sabelko – motion to approve by LeAnna. Seconded by Kim. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Vote closed. Positions start today and run through next annual meeting of the members in January 2025.

Review of Proposed Annual Budget for 2024: In process.

Updated By-Laws: Meeting in December to go over these and revise. Tourism has been added to our purpose as well as establishing the area we conduct our business. Mike reached out to Matt Sam to get input on ensuring our revisions fall within legal compliance - waiting for response.

Form 990: Need to ensure we put in our revised purpose on this form.

DIG Events for 2024 / To-Do List: Mike put together a to-do list for timeline of events and what needs to get done. Mike pointed out that MitP sponsorship letters for businesses go out in April and questioned if this should be done earlier; this timing hasn't been an issue in the past so may not need an adjustment.

Business Expo – was March 23rd last year. LeAnna and Mike met with Harley from Small Business Development Center (SBDC UWEC) about getting more involved with Pepin County. They cannot make it to the Small Business Empowerment event, but they would like to come to the Business Expo, so the sooner we have this on the schedule, the better. If we get a list of the vacant buildings in town that a business may be interested in, they can provide this information with potential new business

owners and assist with getting them up and running. LeAnna brought up the idea of doing a combined empowerment event and expo on the same day in the future. For this year, proposed to keep the business expo in March on a weekday. Gym at the school may be available on Thursday, March 21st. If this day doesn't work, April 3rd is the secondary date. Need to contact SBDC to confirm they can make the March date if scheduled. Will run from 5-7 PM with speaker planned from 6-6:30 PM. John from Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC) would be another good speaker option.

Music in the Park – June is Uncaged once signed contract is returned (6/19), July is Chris Kroeze (7/17), August is White Side Walls (8/21). Taste of Durand will continue to be in August. Standard 6-9 PM each month.

Trunk or Treat – Will be 10/26 this year.

Dazzle – Will be 11/30 this year.

Scholarships: Start advertising these in February. There will be two \$500 scholarships. Val has the new scholarship template to get to the school.

Pepin County Heritage Center Membership: A membership is \$50 for a non-profit organization. Mike will reach out to Matt about partnering and becoming a member. We should invite them to have a booth at the business expo as well. We should also reach out to other organizations in the community about working together. LeAnna made a motion to approve purchasing the membership. Scott seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Comments and Issues for Future Consideration:

- Business spotlight for the businesses that are members of DIG. They would provide a blurb about their business, pictures of the owners / business, and information about any specials they have running the month we are featuring them.

Next general meeting: February 12, 2024 at 6 PM

Meeting adjourned: 7:26 PM