

Durand Improvement Group Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2024

Members present: Mike Norby, Tanya Smeltzer, Val Cataract, Jeni Whitwam (Ntec), Scott Sabelko, Kim Bauer (Batter & Bowls)
Visitors present: Josie (Bridge to Hope)

Meeting called to order – 6:00 PM

Public comments: Josie indicated that April is Sexual Assault and Child Abuse awareness month. They are working on a Chalk the Walk event and are looking for businesses who are interested in participating in chalk art in front of their businesses to promote awareness. Denim Day is another event for awareness that Josie can provide information for and asked if we would help facilitate these events with local businesses. Josie can provide additional information after their upcoming meeting. Mike mentioned the small business expo and the possibility of Bridge to Hope attending the expo.

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

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

Committee Reports:

Funfest: Mike had a long talk with Matt Giles regarding configuration for how to put the carnival in for this year's event. He also reached out to Sandy Bauer about the use of the lot, and they will be putting in sheds to sell / rent, so this is not an option. Current plan is to use the block behind the bandshell, the blacktop where the beer tent was, and part of Wells and the 2nd Avenue block. Matt stated that the current plan looks good, but we still need to get approval from Scott.

Dog Park: At a standstill waiting for approval from the DNR and Pepin County to use Tarrant Park. LeAnna would like to start getting things cleared, but this needs to be done by someone who is insured for that purpose.

Old Business:

Membership Updates: Still waiting on membership from the city, but otherwise look to be around the same or a little ahead of last year's numbers.

By-Laws Update: Mike met with Steve Schultz and he had some concerns about both revised and prior. Biggest concern was having too much in the by-laws, as some things would be considered standard operating procedures and not by-laws. Steve gave a template to Mike for us to use and strongly encourages changing them to remove a lot of the fluff. Mike brought a draft based off the template provided. Article III regarding Offices/Registered Agent by-law was added. The officers and term limits section was updated to include staggered terms and officers to serve 2-year terms instead of 1-year terms. Any voting on by-laws must be done at a special meeting not at a standard monthly meeting. Advance notice must be provided in the paper / online for notification about this special meeting. Mike put together a separate document for standard operating procedures.

Bandshell Renovations: Mike reached out to Cole Hagness (VP of Durand Builders) to get an update on an estimate for building costs. Not getting many quotes from masonry contractors. Mike let him know that we would be removing the concessions. Cole will need a definitive decision on what we will want to keep and remove for adjusting the design layout. Per discussion, everything should be the same except for removal of the concessions. Talked about replacing the coolers/fridges for the soda. Currently have roughly \$17,000 for the renovations but have only done smaller fundraising for this. Bandshell is going to be 100 years old next year; we could do some kind of fundraising event in celebration of the anniversary. Mike will reach out to Cole about the plan revision decision.

City Funding Request: Asked for more this year with details as to why but the approved amount was around half of what was requested. The city allocates \$12,000 to fund community-related activities - \$8,000 was approved for DIG but no timeframe was provided for when we will receive the funds. Scott suggested the possibility of passing the cost for flowers and maintenance onto the businesses who have flowers outside of them. We feel they already contributed to this via their membership dues.

Business Expo Updates: Currently know of 10-12 businesses and organizations participating. Mike sent out an e-mail to all current members about this and got one registration after this. Scott has started to go around to some of the businesses to hand out forms. Would be important to stress that there will be resources for those looking to start businesses or just getting

started with businesses. Hoping to get more Main Street businesses signed up. Mike will continue to reach out to current members who haven't signed up.

New Business:

Music in the Park: Pepin County Dairy Promotion will do some promotional items in June for Dairy Month. Paul Seipel working on getting a tractor downtown for Touch a Tractor. St. John's Lutheran church will be using the Dairy Promotion trailer and doing root beer floats. No word back from the Methodist church for their menu for July. Val will reach out to Cully about the Blues menu.

SBDC Partnership Update: Mike posed a question to them about forming a stronger partnership and doing sessions a couple times a year. He reached out to Harlie about doing this and she is onboard with this. Discussed doing something down at the Senior Citizen center. First session would be an introduction to the services that they provide and then have additional ones specific to different services.

WRDN Membership/Advertising: Membership has been sent in but nothing submitted regarding the advertising aspect. Mike said he can reach out about this.

Fundraising: Possibly use proceeds from 26 Raffle for new Gator – Mike will bring this up to the FunFest committee. Can we rent one from Tractor Central for the summer? A community luncheon (like the Ladies' Luncheon in Mondovi) would be a possible option. Depending on the sale of the Masonic Lodge, it may be an option for this event. We will need to figure out a menu for this – which local business(es) would be providing the food. If we could get this going, it could become an annual event. Businesses would donate for raffles and then there would be a cost to attend the luncheon. Jeni suggested doing this in the spring next year. Do this in the evening on a weeknight and have a seating time with doors opening earlier than the mealtime.

Donation Requests:

High school post-prom committee – being held at the Barn Again Lodge. We donated \$250 last year; agreed to donate \$100 this year.

Buffalo/Pepin County Teen Court – Mike put in a motion to donate \$250, Scott seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed – motion carried.

Pepin County 4-H Parents and Leaders federation – all agreed to once again donate \$250

Comments and Issues for Future Consideration: None

Next general meeting: April 8, 2024 at 6 PM

Meeting adjourned: 7:39 PM