

Main Street/Chamber Board Meeting
6:45 AM September 1, 2015
West Union Chamber/Main Street Office

Members present: Carolyn Weber, Dick Woodard, Karla Organist, Jane Blumhagen, Gail Hackman, Greg Ptacek, Amie Johansen, Amy Christensen, Bob Sadler, Carolyn Havenstrite, Melody Patrick, Mike Johnson, Jennifer Tobin and Patti Heuton. Also in attendance was Derek Heins.

Bob called the meeting to order at 6:50 AM.

I Agenda

Greg asked that agenda item VI be moved to item III.

Dick asked that Metal Recycling be added to the agenda.

Jane moved to approve; Greg seconded. Motion carried.

II Minutes

Dick moved to approve the minutes; Karla seconded. Motion carried.

III Building Update and Bus Barn Financials

Derek provided a printout for us to review where we stand with the sale of the building. It looks as though we will break even on the building and not make any profit.

We discussed whether or not we can charge Gus rent from last October, as he has not paid any rent. But since it was never established that she should, Dick doesn't think we can go back now and ask for it. Karla suggested we increase our administrative expenses to recoup some money. Bob stated that we voted in our June meeting on a \$300,000 sale price. Mike suggested we increase our admin expenses from \$25,000 to \$35,000, bringing the sale price up to \$298,000. Greg suggested increasing the AHTS from \$15,000 to \$17,000 which would bring the sale price up to \$300,000.

Dick said he asked AHTS for a bill but hasn't seen it yet.

Amie moved we adjust numbers to Derek's suggestion of \$300,814.97. Carolyn H seconded. It carried.

Derek had a question as to who would be signing the paperwork. Karla & Mike moved and seconded that Bob would sign; Melody & Mike moved and seconded that Jennifer, along with Bob, would also sign for the Main Street deed and all closing documents. The motion carried.

IV Finances

Karla will send the current info to us once she has received the bank statements.

Jennifer read the list of bills we need to pay and asked for approval for her to write the checks. Karla moved to approve financials; Carolyn W seconded. Motion carried.

V Committee Reports

Organization – Greg reported that from Playin' on the Plaza and the Fourth of July we profited over \$900. The numbers are not yet in from WUStock.

He said Dueling Pianos is coming along well. Posters are being worked on. Tickets will need to be made up soon and made available to us for advance sales. He thinks advance sales is the key to the success of this event. Last year there were 150-180 attendees; he hopes to double that this year.

Mike offered to put up posters in Tripoli. Amie said we need to work on poster distribution so we get better coverage this year. She said selling a table of 8 was a good idea and worked. Mike suggested we put a Save The Date notice in the newsletter.

Promotions – Bob received an email about a grant for outdoor summertime concerts. You would need to hold 10 events to qualify. They offer matching, up to \$25,000. Our Playin' on the Plaza concerts count, as well as WUStock, but what about the Block Party and the Fourth of July? We asked if the grant money could be used for advertising and other things or just for the music. The Promotions committee will work on it. The deadline is coming up in mid October.

Regarding WUStock, several people said it went well and received good comments about the games, especially the bubbles.

Metal Recycling is coming up September 25th and 26th, Friday and Saturday. Dick sent around a sign-up sheet and asked everyone to sign up.

Business Improvement – Did not meet in August, next meeting is Sept 28th 1 PM in the Chamber office.

Design – the committee is working on the Fall Workshop

VI Reorganization

Karla told us that Patrick Ritter asked us to form a committee to hash over questions he has for us. He will review another example of an autonomous board. Karla will forward his letter to us via email. He would like a committee to form and to meet with him in September. Autonomy for Community Development was discussed and several questions were asked. Melody shared more about the work they did to bring Arts Way to town saying that they often fly under the radar because they are dealing with confidential information and that they are an important entity. Greg added that they are “first point of contact” and their work needs to be on the down low before things are official and ready for press release. Karla asked who would like to serve on the committee to work on this and to answer questions. Melody, Mike and Bob volunteered. Karla will pass that along to Patrick and he'll be in touch with them.

VII Fall Workshop

Greg said there may be some concern at the state level regarding our plans but that perhaps it's a communication thing.

We discussed the panel, which is the only “content” thing we are responsible for. Tobin Britt, Vicki Roland, Robin Bostrom, Dick Woodard and Jon Biederman are expected to be panel members. Dick suggested the group meet ahead of time to coordinate information and presentation. The panel discussion will take place during breakfast, before tours. Dick asked if Jennifer would email everyone the schedule for the day.

Amie will call Donna Blue about blocking out some rooms for our visitors for the 28th and 29th.

We will host a casual thing at 122 on the evening of the 28th. It would be great if some of our members would be there. Mike wondered about asking for drink specials and wondered if we should provide hors d'oeuvres. We can't take food into 122 but people can order off the menu if they want to eat.

Dick wondered if we should have flags out and signs in windows.

Greg thought Kent should do a welcome in the morning on the 30th. Amie will talk to him. Bob says we'll need to do a closing farewell thing as well.

Greg hopes we can give out a bag with tourism stuff and merchant info. Bob thought we should put together a pamphlet of retail businesses and a map of the city.

Greg asked about the welcome bags, how many we have and what's in them. We have 10 or so in the Chamber basement. Bob wondered about the cost and if we could do it inexpensively using a brown bag with a printed label, or pocket folders. Jennifer thinks the number we would want to have is between 85 and 100.

Bob said the Catholic Daughters will be providing breakfast and lunch at the church.

Bob will test the sound system at the church.

Cookies and bars – we agreed that between us all we can bring in enough for the two breaks on the 30th.

Jennifer will get the schedule from Darlene and get it to each of us.

We discussed the need for something to drink. Melody suggested we contact the Coke rep for a donation. Lemonade was also suggested.

VIII Conservation Design Forum Professional Photographer

Greg moved we contribute \$300 to become a partner. They would like to begin photography tomorrow, Sept 2nd.

Melody seconded. Motion carried. Jennifer will contact them.

IX No other business

X Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled at our new time of 7 AM *sharp* Tuesday October 13th.

Carolyn moved and Amie seconded that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8 AM.

Submitted by Patti Heuton