

Friends of the Downtown Meeting

Minutes - May 3, 2007

Meeting called to order by President Jeff Miller at 5pm. 8 people present at 5pm, but eventually count was 16 people.

Minutes: Liz moved we accept minutes from April 5th, Dorothy second, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report handed out by Jeff in Marilyn's absence Attached . Liz moved to accept and Enid seconded, motion passed.

Guest:

Jeff introduced our guest Roger Emmerich from the American Legion Post 147. Roger explained the Veteran's Memorial Flags to be placed on top of hill behind library. He had a poster and some drawings to give us an idea of the placement of the flags. There will be 8 flags, one for each branch of the military, POW flag and a Wisconsin and US flag the latter will be on an 80ft pole and the others on 60-foot poles. They will be laid out in the shape of a military specialist patch. The idea began when the flags got dumped in the water and people gave funds to replace and the fund raising has gone very well.

They have purchased the flags and poles and plan a dedication for July 4th. They would like us to include this in our advertising. They hope to have Adjunct General Wilkanen in charge of all the branches of reserves in Wisconsin to be the keynote speaker. They also plan to have memorial stones leading around the flags to help with maintenance. Flags cost \$800 and need to be replaced twice a year.

Decorating Sue reported that the flowers are planted and Jeff received a quote from Harold Orth to plant the planters with new dirt at \$80 per planter, Liz moved we accept his bid and Jeff will talk to him, Kathy second, motion passed.

We need to get lights off the big tree.

Old Business

June 21 – Arlen reported that the Amish in Holloway declined to be a part of tour so with the help of Nevin High who has friends in the Athens Mennonite community, they have several places lined up for bus tour including A Machine Shop on 97, Blooming Gardens – a greenhouse. Beaver Creek, waiting to hear about them and having a meal there, Fieldside Rustics, Martin's Woodcraft and the man who makes Hickory Rockers.

Arlen is going to make a brochure to give to the Amish and Mennonite communities explaining that we would like them to bring their products downtown on June 21st.

Arlen also will arrange for a speaker, (name here) who will cost \$300 to speak in the evening about the Anabaptists. Dan moved that we pay up to \$150 towards the speaker, Dorothy seconded, motion passed.

Chair affair - July 19, all is going well and Star News has had an article and there is enthusiastic response. Star news would like to sponsor a kid's sidewalk chalk contest. And also the Star News staff would like to do a brat fry that night, proceeds going to FOTD. Thank you, Carol O'Leary and staff.

Historical Night – August 16th – Donna & Jeff are working on a brochure for self guided tour and will be consulting Hildegard Kuse, there will be additional information on line about the history of the buildings. Marilyn and Dorothy are driving around looking at Sears's houses there are 4 confirmed. They are hoping to get the authority on Sears's houses from Madison to come up, maybe speak.

City Hall – Jeff went to the city council meeting and they have agreed to water and put up our flower baskets including the 6 new ones if we can get them going. We need to get baskets and brackets. Still working on installing electrical in City Park, lots of problems.

However they are going to rework the State Street median in front of City Hall and will plant trees so we can put up LED lights next year, hoping to have dirt not stones. Enid would rather dig in the dirt.

Arlen and Jeff talked to the Medford Economic Development Foundation and shared the results of our survey and we are hoping they will make their funds available to small businesses for improvements, electricity etc.

Heritage Garden – Nancy and Sue have a plan of attack and would like help getting the ground ready on Sunday afternoon and then planting the area next week. An email and telephone tree will be activated when the work nights will be.

Dorothy had a wonderful idea for the mural on the Ben Franklin, still waiting for permission, the inside of the old theater had a neat mural, and she has a picture.

Jeff reported we would have a worker for the summer paid by the state \$6.50 an hour for 20 hours a week

Tourism Sign - Sue made a motion that we give \$200 to the County for the sign, Karen second, motion passed. Check to be written to Taylor County Tourism c/o Bruce Strama.

A check will also be written to the Taylor County Master Gardeners for \$100 for winning the decorating contest.

Sue made a motion to adjourn at 6:05 and Irene second, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Archibald