



Meeting Date: October 10, 2018

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Elks Lodge

In Attendance:

Rev. Bill Webster

Brooke Robinson

Sherry Statton

Chris Cleary

Rita Randall

Dan Stephens

Jim Schramm

Anthony Orsini

Barb & Scott Ballint

Marian Klier

Missy Yeso

Rick Rogers

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Bill Webster

Financial Report (Rita Randall):

Rita reported that as of this date is our balance is \$21,483. She did not have a breakdown for this report.

Heritage Ohio/Main Street (Chris Cleary):

Chris has sent out our Winterfest information to them and they will forward it to their members.

Minutes/Calendar (Katie):

Those present approved the minutes from the September meeting.

Rev. Webster continued the meeting by asking for committee reports.

Farmers Market (Sherry):

Farmers Market has wrapped up for 2018. We did pick up a few vendors at the end of the season. It was felt that the reason our vendor attendance was down was because it was not a good year for our local farms. The Market in Bellaire has shut down. It is run by Ohio Valley Farmers Market that is at the Ohio Valley Mall but does not have the same vendors. This group has many rules that must be followed and they charge to have a space. Missy mentioned that when she went to the Farmers Market in Warwood Health Rite had formed a Farmacy there with nurse practitioners in attendance to help customers with healthy buying. She said we should approach EORH for 2019 with a similar program. We would need to take a class on SNAP and the company she works for would fund.

Banners (Missy):

This project has been dropped for the time being and will start again in 2019. It was felt that the businesses have already been asked for enough.

Food Trucks:

We had no success with this this year.

Strawberry Festival:

We will start planning for this after the first of the year.

Tailgate:

This was not very successful. It was felt that it was too far away from the game. It will be dropped for the future.

Winterfest:

Rita has asked that everyone in charge of an activity submit a budget. All possible sponsors need to be contacted and reminded of the October 12 deadline. She can provide W-9 - tax ID needed.

Advertising: Missy asked Brooke if she had done the artwork that Belmont County Tourism needed for the billboard they are doing. Barb noted that it had been completed. We now need a design for the one for the City billboard.

The Winterfest float was in the Barnesville Pumpkin Parade, will be in the Christmas in the Village parade in Powhatan on November 10 and the Wheeling parade on November 16. Flyers need to be passed out with Winterfest on the front and schedule of activities on the back. Katie has started a spreadsheet listing the activities for November 23 and 24.

Signs are ready to be put up. Radio stations will promote one month out from an event, Novotny will do an on-air interview.

Decorating: Scott Porter can bring tree and decorations up. It was decided that this will take place on November 9. The large tree will be placed in the park on the corner and a smaller one at the City Building. The banners will be placed by City workers. EORH will be asked for volunteers.

Entertainment: Chris has sign a contract with "Beetlemania Magic" to perform on Saturday night. Barb has procured 2 motel rooms from America's Best Value through the manager Bill Goff who is on the Tourism Council for them. We will add this business to our sponsor list.

The stage is being built by Project Best with the scaffolding and awning from BET. There will be a platform on the stage for the drummer.

We are planning to have Christmas karaoke between the group's sets.

The "Cookie Eating Contest" was then discussed. It will take place in the intersection of Hanover and Fifth Streets. We will buy cookies from the Dollar General for this. Contestants will eat cookies and drink a glass of milk/egg nog. The prize will be cookies from a local bakery.

Activities:

Tree Lighting: Marian suggested having Trooper Chase Watts, along with Echo, light the tree. Chase started the Books with Badges Program and is a Martins Ferry graduate.

Jingle Bell Run – Anthony reported that he is still waiting to hear from the teachers' union for their possible \$500 donation for activities. Barb suggested that he check with Pat Catan for any donation. He has the waiver forms for the Run.

It was decided to have the inflatables and ice rink. Other activities include tattoos (Hot Rod will provide with a winter theme); balloon lady Friday and Saturday with balloon animals (we pay her); face painting on Saturday; milk and cookies while waiting in line for Santa and Santa. A motion was made by Barb Ballint that because all of this will be provided we will charge \$8 for wristbands. It was seconded by Rick Rodgers and then passed unanimously. We will need a sign made listing everything that the wristbands cover. There will also be a sketch artist on Saturday who will charge for her drawings.

We will ask the MFHS National Honor Society to help with the wristband sales and having the waivers signed.

Food: the following non-profits have said they will be there Grace Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church, Chamber of Commerce, Elks Lodge, Pamela Clark and Zontini's. It was decided that the non-profits will pay \$25 each Zontini's will not pay because they are a sponsor. Food trucks will all pay \$100.

The weekly Winterfest meeting will not be held tomorrow (10/11).

The meeting then continued with Project Forward:

Everyone was asked to take tickets for the North Myrtle Beach Vacation Raffle. You need to put your initials on the back of your ticket stubs. Missy's company has donated 2 - \$100 paid gift cards (one Amex and one Visa). The person selling the most tickets will win their choice of one of these.

Rev. Webster reported that he is working on a survey for the businesses.

There was nothing to report on grants.

A group needs to be set up to work in housing redevelopment. This will be tables until the January meeting.

It was reported that the former Quality Motors property has been purchased by TMK, Rare Properties and Epic Restorations.

St. Paul's Church has been purchased by Kendall Behavioral Solutions.

Scott Porter, service director, will be working with the Land Bank.

Chris noted that someone is putting up White Supremacist stickers around town. These need to be taken down.

Parking Meters: Chris passed around an information sheet about parking meters. Rev. Webster has talked with the mayor in Beaver, PA (where the cracker plant is currently being built) and asked him what their biggest mistakes were. He noted that they should have had a strong zoning board. He was asked if they had parking meters and he said they had theirs taken out even before the construction was started. It was felt that they were a detriment to business. They now chalk tires with a fine of \$30 if vehicle is there longer than 2 hours. Diagonal parking was then also discussed. It was decided that we should check with other communities who recently made parking changes. Marietta was an example.

Barb was then asked about having the Martins Ferry Welcome sign moved to the Fifth Street entrance. She was sorry to report that she has contacted the woodshop class teacher, Mr. Kovacs, several times and has not heard anything from him. We may have to do this ourselves.

She also suggested that we ask Larry Merry from the Port Authority to be a guest speaker regarding bringing in new business and also Crystal Lorimor from CIC. One of the County Commissioners would also be asked.

A possible partnership with the City should be formed for development.

A motion to adjourn was then made by Barb Ballint and seconded by Dan Stephens. The next Project Forward meeting will be held on November 15.

Respectfully submitted by,

Marian Klier