

MINUTES

February 22, 2024

I. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Courtney Sutfin. The following members were present: Courtney Sutfin, Mackenzie James, Colleen Johnston, Kian McKeag, Drew Rempp . Absent members Hannah Wilson, Zach Price and Dustin Stowell. Guests present were Loren Elliot, Peggy Watts and Jacki Bolen. Johnston made a motion to approve the minutes from January, James seconded the motion.

II. New Business

-Jacki Bolen talked with the group about a new project that she is undertaking in the county called Home Base Iowa. There are currently 78 of 99 counties in Iowa that participate and currently Poweshiek county does not. Home Base Iowa is a partnership with communities that creates an environment for veterans to come back home, live in a community, and find a job. Home Base Iowa would ideally partner with local businesses to move veterans up the hiring lists, utility offices to offer incentives, and other local stores to provide value. Bolen is not seeking any funds from MCD, rather is looking for MCD to promote Home Base Iowa, show families around, and be the welcoming committee.

-The group discussed events to include summer nights on the square and the 4th of July. Tentatively, the group will host a summer nights on the square event in June and August. Themes are TBD, however, the group feels offering a certain theme may encourage more people to attend. Elliot suggested the group reach out to the churches to make sure they were okay with MCD using the summer nights name.

-4th of July will be held on July 6th. The group discussed moving the start time of the parade up from 10AM to 9:30 AM. All members agreed. Courtney will reach out to the Lion's Club to make sure they are aware of the change in time so they can be prepared. So far, a few vendors have said they would be there, however, we are still in need of more. Courtney will continue to work off previous years' lists to see who we can get. There is another large event happening that night in Grinnell, so vendors are already booked for that.

- Sauce'd will host a bags tournament
- Kian will ask fire department about water fights
- Mackenzie will ask Spanish Club to man the inflatable stations
- Chalk the walk?
- Courtney will follow up with Craig Arendt about insurance as he has not yet given her an answer as to if we need our own policy or if we fall under the city's.

-Kian approached Bret Warden about MCD purchasing the items the MAG group has left as that group has dissolved. Bret stated they had a dunk tank and a few panels left. The group



was okay with purchasing the tank pending what the price is. Kian or Courtney will follow up.

-Courtney completed the press release. Colleen offered some great revisions. Once Courtney makes those changes, she will give it to Shirley to publish.

-Business and community workshops are still something the group finds valuable. A poll will be put up on the Facebook page to see what types of workshops the community might desire. From there, we will begin to make a list and reach out to see what speakers we can get to come to our community. Finding the right topic and time will be trial and error. Some ideas now are budgeting, finances, and digital marketing.

-Courtney applied for the Poweshiek County Greater Funds Grant as well as a Diamond Vogel Paint Grant. Recipients will be notified in the spring with decisions.

-The group discussed creating their own website rather than using the city's. While the group thinks a new website would reflect what the group hopes to accomplish, the group voted to continue to use the city's website and make some revisions and updates. Peggy Watts offered to help with this.

III. Old Business

- Hannah will work on 2024 food trucks. If you have suggestions, please let her know!
- Fixtures will be ordered in the next week for parks. Courtney will reach out to Eilander Enterprises for a quote for installation.
- Alumni Books are half gone. The bank will continue to sell for us.

IV. James made a motion to close the meeting. Rempp seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:32pm.

NEXT MEETING: March 21 @ 4:30PM
