

Downtown Revitalization Committee Minutes

July 13, 2023

The Downtown Revitalization Committee met on Thursday, July 13, 2023 at Red Daisy Girl, 130 N. Central Ave.

Present were committee members: Ken Martine, Carey Hargot, John Heil, Tim Swiggum, Linda Barna, and Cindy Cardinal. Wallace was absent

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Martine.

Minutes: A Swiggum/Barna motion/second to approve the minutes from June 1, 2023 with one correction.

Under Farmers Market it should say "hours" rather than house. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: A balance of \$10,497.98 was reported. A Cardinal/Hargot motion/second to approve the report passed unanimously. Swiggum said there would be an Owen Blooms for You ad in the newspaper.

Cardinal said the O-W Sports deposit on June 15 should be changed to Growin' Owen.

Checking Account: A Hargot/Swiggum motion/second to add Owen City Clerk Tracy Rau as a signatory passed unanimously. This is to be in compliance with requirements by the city auditors for Rau to have account access.

Growin' Owen: We have a bill from Longwood Gardens for \$283. This is for the mulch purchased in the spring and the mulch recently picked up by Tom Swiggum for the trees in the railroad right-of-way and the Community Garden. Cardinal, Barna, and Jeffer Scheuer weeded the plants around the bathrooms at Mill Pond Park. They need to be added to our list of gardens to maintain. John and Linda Barna tilled up a portion of the garden at Fremont Park. Cardinal will check to see if public works has some mulch available for that spot. The second planter box still needs to be moved. A Barna/Swiggum motion/second to pay the Longwood Gardens bill in the amount of \$283 passed unanimously.

Flower Watering: Martine said that DPW Chad Smith had apologized for the tractor not being available for watering one day. CJ had put the tractor in the garage and Smith did not know that when he went to the city council meeting. Martine reminded everyone that those doing the watering should try to be done by 10 a.m. or they should water after 3 p.m. Swiggum said that if Smith would just let them know when the tractor was needed, they would get the watering done around those hours. Swiggum said Smith could either text him or Hargot. There was a suggestion that maybe the DRC could help public works purchase a separate piece of equipment. Martine said that Smith is looking for a John Deere 445. Heil asked about taking another look at the Cub Cadet he looked at earlier. It was felt that Smith should start looking for another tractor and maybe we could pay half. The OWAHS water bill was about \$90 and we didn't start watering flowers until the end of May, so Cardinal suggested we pay a third of the bill. A Swiggum/Barna motion/second for the DRC to pay OWAHS \$30 for the second quarter water bill was approved unanimously.

Farmer's Market: The four signs cost \$32. Barna also put up 12 construction paper signs around town. She talked to Trapper's Creek, they will sell her produce that Barna can then sell at the Farmers Market. She can return what isn't sold. Ina Hoover will come. Hargot suggested putting up a sign that we are looking for vendors. Barna also talked to El Pinal about bringing their food truck. He is interested but wouldn't be there until mid-morning. Owen Jr. Fair and Car Show weekends, the Farmers Market is moving to the Old School.

Community Gardens: Martine has to get together with Wallace to get the roof done on the shed. Martine also reported that a valve broke on one of the water barrels and that public works took care of it.

Summer Street Dance: Two down, one to go. There were fewer people this time.

Car Show: The Car Show Subcommittee will be John Heil, Tim Swiggum, Carey Hargot, and Laken Potocnik. It was not known if Tony Wallace wanted to participate on the subcommittee. A tent will be set up again this year for registration/trophies. Heil got a couple of sponsors. Abbyland is donating a case of brats. Hargot Family Farms is donating the hamburgers. We will see if Cindy Knight is willing to help this year. We need to look at the number of shirts as there are a lot left over from last year. It was suggested that maybe we could sell last year's shirts for \$5 each. Cardinal will check to see if the newspaper will do a free ad as their sponsorship. She will also talk to Withee Tire/Scoops. Other possible sponsors were split up between the committee members. We will use last year's Best of Show car on the shirts this year.

Autumnfest: No discussion at this time. Date is set for September 30th.

Murder Mystery Theatre: The consensus was that we should work with OWAAC and do it again.

Owen Centennial Celebration: Cardinal said the Centennial Committee would like to plan their main event for the Car Show weekend in 2025. The theme might be “Trees, Trains and Automobiles. The feeling was it could work out if everything was well planned and timed out. Extra help would also be needed for food, etc. Swiggum didn’t like the idea. He also suggested doing the tree planting near the actual Owen Anniversary date. Swiggum left at 6:10, Heil left at 6:15. A Barna/Martine motion/second to approve working with the Centennial Committee on the event for Car Show weekend passed with four members present.

Any Other Business: Hargot brought up information about an advertising opportunity from the Marshfield radio station. They would like at least five businesses to participate. She thought the DRC could be one of the five.

Committee Meetings: Car Show, July 19 at 10 a.m. and July 26 at 10 a.m.

Next DRC meeting: August 3, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m. by Martine.

Submitted by Cindy Cardinal