

The Downtown Revitalization Committee (DRC) met in regular session on Thursday, May 23, 2013, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall. Present were committee members: Tim Swiggum, Community Development Agency director, Drew Potocnik, Jill Schindler, Mary Lynn Kiviko, Don Wyeth, Linda Wyeth, Karen Swiggum, Barb Gruetzmacher, Bonnie Work, Rich Sahlin.

Minutes

A DWyeth/KSwiggum motion and subsequent vote approved the minutes of the previous DRC meeting of the April 18, DRC meeting.

Community Garden

Don and Linda Wyeth have donated the use of their heavy-duty rear time rototiller for use in the Community Garden and for small tilling projects, such as flower beds, in the city. Dennis Looker of the city's public works department has asked a neighbor at the garden site to let us store the tiller in his shed between uses. We still need help from Gary Smith to determine where the water is located and to install some kind of lockable spigot there.

We decided that the city will bring in compost for the garden, but individual gardeners will need to provide their own manure/fertilizer. There are 12 sites that have been plowed up, thanks to Mark Hanson, and 11 have been reserved. Now we need a break from the rain to get into the garden to do some needed tilling and other site preparation.

The first tentative meeting for adults and work day in the garden will be Saturday, June 1 (weather permitting).

Tim will check on getting the water hydrant put in, and Linda will send a thank-you note to Mark Hanson for plowing up the garden site for us.

Farmers Market

Tim Swiggum says the Farmers Market vendors are very pleased with the new location of the market.

We need signage, both for the market and for the DRC Concession stand. Don and Linda Wyeth offered to donate paint (white primer and barn red) and brushes for repainting the old Farmers Market signs, and Karen Swiggum and Jill Schindler will help with the painting and lettering. Linda Wyeth will create two signs from foam board for the concession stand. Also, she will make a sign-in form and schedule for DRC members to work at the concession stand.

Tim Swiggum suggested having Wednesday brat fries at the concession stand, perhaps using brats from Abbyland Meats. He feels they will be better for raising money for the DRC.

Movies in the Park

Bonnie Work suggested having a Movies in the Park event on Thursday nights from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. during the summer starting in mid June. After discussing the possibilities for bad weather and pesky mosquitoes, we felt that perhaps the Old School might be a better location. We would provide popcorn, and families would bring their own beverages (no beer or alcohol) and their own seats and blankets.

We need to locate a projector, screen, and speakers and will check into borrowing those, possibly from the Old School or the school district. Bonnie will make flyers, and suggested letting kids vote on which movies to watch in coming weeks.

It was agreed that the movies will be held at the Old School beginning at 7pm every Thursday. Movies will begin on June 13th and it is already known that July 11th will not be available for movies due to the Owen Junior Fair. July 4th is still an option depending on available volunteers. Mark Hanson at the Thirsty Squirrel is thinking about sponsoring a fireworks show which would be held on the East edge of town.

Car Show

Drew Potocnik and Jill Schindler have recommended having a car show in Owen on August 17. We would have the main events right on Main Street. We will need to make brochures and also spread the word via web sites. We agreed that it would be a good idea to have a "tail gate swap meet" in addition to having vendors.

We will need sign-in sheets, ribbons and trophies, and probably a judging sheet and certificates.

Vendors paying the fee to show at the car show will receive a ticket or coupon for a free brat or burger and a soda. We could set up a couple of grills. Tim volunteered for this committee and said he thinks Roger Wallace from the Woodlands Hotel, Mike Arneson from Mikes bar and Connie Phippen from pippens Pub and Grub will also be willing to help out.

We would have the car show during the day and a band and street dance in the evening, starting around 6:00 p.m.

Haunted Trail

We discussed having a "haunted trail" over two weekends in October. We will discuss this idea more at our next meeting.

Indian Summer Fest

The date for Indian Summer Fest is Saturday, September 7. We will ask the Chamber of Commerce for a donation of \$800 for the entertainment costs, but they would like a breakdown of the costs, which Tim and Carol are working on. Carol has a list of possible vendors. Mike Arneson knows of a band, The Big Deeks. We will plan to approach each of the bars in town for a \$200 donation. We might have a "Taste of Owen-Withee" event for food. We will plan to have children's activities and perhaps sell brats on a street corner. We'll have a scarecrow decorating contest again, and a pumpkin decorating contest for kids.

Update on railroad

Tim said the railroad is supposed to make a proposal to the city, so we might possibly have the bridge and old depot, which would become a focal point of downtown.

Adjourn

A D.Wyeth/Kiviko motion and subsequent vote approved adjournment at 7 p.m.