

**Downtown Revitalization Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**May 5, 2016**

The Downtown Revitalization Committee (DRC) met on Thursday, May 5, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. at city hall. Present were committee members: Kelly Knight, Jill Schindler, Mary Lynn Kiviko, Linda Wyeth, Don Wyeth and Steve Ristola. Absent was Carol Devine. Others present: Tim Swiggum, June Roohr, Pam Ristola, Shannon Clark, Abby Pippin and Cindy Cardinal.

**Minutes:**

A Knight/D. Wyeth motion to approve the minutes from 4/7/16 passed unanimously.

**Financial Report**

No report was available at this time.

**Election of Chairperson:**

Swiggum opened up the nominations; Schindler nominated Kelly Knight for Chairperson and was seconded by Linda Wyeth. Swiggum called twice more for nominations. A Kiviko/Schindler motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Kelly Knight as Chairperson of the DRC passed unanimously.

Knight took over the meeting at this time.

**Farmers Market**

Martha Hoffmann has already started selling on the last Saturday of April. Bill Benschawel has indicated he will be there when the weather gets better. The signs for the Farmers Market still need painting and Don Wyeth has agreed to work on them, Jill has provided the paint and brushes to Don.

**Community Garden**

The organizational meeting for the gardens was not very well attended. The meeting was held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> with only 5 people in attendance. The Gardens are full and it doesn't look like we will need to work up more at this time. Cindy Cardinal has offered to donate several Master Gardening binders; she will drop them off at city hall. The need to build a compost pile from bridge timbers was discussed. Mike Clark was volunteered to build 2 raised bed gardens if the materials were provided. It is not clear that we have a need for them but it was agreed to go ahead and work on getting them done. Wyeths have a soil test kit that they will use to test the acidity in the soils of each plot. Bob Schuh has offered raspberry plants and it was agreed to locate them on the west side between the gardens and the apple trees. Wyeths would like to make time to build a strawberry bed and plant some rhubarb as well. The idea was presented to hold a garden party of some sort this summer.

**Main Street Car Show and Burnout Contest**

The Friends of the Old School will be holding a rummage sale during the car show. Jill reported that the shirts this year will be turquoise and we need to start getting our sponsors in line so the shirts can be done ahead of time. Shannon reported that at this time we only have one vendor signed up but that will improve as they decide their schedules. The fliers need to get out as soon as possible, Tim will work on those. Tim was asked to contact the fire department ahead of time to ensure that they are willing to work with us again this year. We also need to locate a PA system to use for the day.

### **Autumnfest**

A lot of discussion was held on the event. It was discussed that it would be nice to provide a little bit of Halloween fun but not take away from the Community Halloween Party. Chili Cook-off is a must and Abby Pippin is willing to spearhead the organization of that. It was decided to hold the entire event at the Old School. June thought the F.O.S. board would be okay with having a campfire out in back of the gym as long as it got cleaned up and was approved by the Fire Chief. Music would be provided during the afternoon and evening. The afternoon would be a polka band and in the evening would be the karaoke contest. Wagon rides were a big hit except for the weather last year. We definitely want to have them again. Thoughts of talking to a Mennonite that could give buggy rides were discussed as well. At this time it was important to set a solid date. A L. Wyeth/Ristola motion to set October 22, 2016 as the date for Autumnfest was approved unanimously.

### **Main Street Banners**

No new information was available. Tim will bring the idea up to the OWACC about the idea of a "Welcome Alumni" banner to be placed on the OWACC signs as you enter Owen and Withee.

### **Curb Appeal Contest**

At this time the contest is looking good. The City has agreed to donate \$150, as has the Chamber of Commerce and the O-W Lions. Tim has it on the agenda for the Village of Withee next week and has been given good hope that Kerry Ingredients will donate \$200 toward the contest. It was mentioned that this contest has to be made known to all residents and should be included in the water bills if possible.

### **New business:**

#### **Battle of the Bands/Street Dances:**

Abby Pippin discussed the idea of holding a Battle of the Bands on August 19<sup>th</sup>, the day before the Car Show. She has put out some feelers on Facebook and has a couple of bands interested. The committee liked the idea for the most part but there were concerns that people might not come two days in a row. It was decided that we should wait until we have more interest to decide and that the bars need to be involved. A D. Wyeth/Ristola motion to table until the next meeting passed unanimously.

**Next meeting** will be held on June 2nd at 6pm at city hall.

### **Adjourn**

A Kiviko/Schindler motion and subsequent vote approved adjournment at 7:05 pm.

Submitted by  
Tim Swiggum