

Montgomery 300th Anniversary Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 3, 2013

Location: Montgomery Township Building, Board Conference Room

Present: Tanya Bamford, Stacy Crandell, Larry Gregan, Kate Karatas, Jim Kelly, Sue Ann Miller, Roy Rodriguez, Richard Roller, Gordon Simes, Maureen Waddington, Bud Walleck, and Ginny Bailey.

Also present: Jason Barnada, Shannon Drosnock, Finance Director and Richard Grier, Technology Manager.

Vice Chairman, Richard Roller called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and the meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the May 6, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Finance Report

Kate reported that as of April 30, 2013, the Committee had a balance of \$40,464.38 and explained that the Finance Reports are a month behind due to our meeting schedule.

Stacy reported \$14,970 in golf outing receipts and after expenses, a profit of \$5,600 was realized.

The Committee approved paying the \$200 deposit to Byers' Choice for the Winfield Scott Hancock caroler. Sue Ann said there were still adjustments to be made to the prototype and received a new estimate of \$36.50 for Byers' Choice to produce the carolers which may not be the final figure. Sue Ann also suggested keeping the cost of the carolers under \$70 once we start selling them.

Old Business:

Oral Histories

Jason Barnada presented his suggested list of possible topics for the oral histories. Each topic would be kept to 5-8 minutes and would keep to a specific topic which could be posted on the website. Sue Ann suggested Jason include "pride points" such as the Township parks and that the topics do not have to be just historical. Other possible topics included a history of the police and fire departments, the commercial development, and the mall. Richard offered the Historical Society's old pictures that could be included. Jason said the individual topics could be put together on a DVD. Suggested themes for the DVD have been a quilt or planting a seed. Roy offered footage from the 275th Anniversary and Jason said he never gets rid of footage so material could be used later for another purpose. Jason will meet with Nancy and Shane to develop a schedule for the summer.

Pay Pal Options

Shannon and Rich were invited to discuss online options. Shannon said the Pay Pal account is not a problem and has been set up but not activated until the Committee approves it. Pay Pal will cost 2.2% plus 30¢ per transaction. Shannon was asked to see if Pay Pal would provide reports of total sales and inventory.

Rich said in addition to Pay Pal, we would use a program called Form Stack to develop simple forms for events and merchandise, collect payments and could be linked to the website. The software would cost \$300-\$400 over the next 2 years but would provide significant savings over having Budget Printing develop and maintain the forms. Merchandise purchased online would be reserved with a receipt and the purchaser would have to come to the Township Building to pick up their order. Both Pay Pal and Form Stack would be set up only for 300th Anniversary use and could be cancelled after 2014. The Committee voted to approve implementation.

Events – Deadlines/Details

The chart developed by Stacy and Maureen was reviewed – most of the events are less than a year away but all require planning now. The chairs for each subcommittee were identified.

- 175th Anniversary of Limekiln Pike Bridge – It was suggested that Lower State Road could be used for a 5K run but Horsham Township would have to be notified since they are responsible for half the road. Limekiln Pike could not be closed to traffic. Roy announced he has commissioned a water color painting of the bridge.
- Historic House Tour – Shaping up but need to determine price. The most complete of any of the events.
- General Hancock's Birthday Celebration – Maureen has spoken to the owner of the Joseph Ambler Inn and a celebration dinner is planned for February 7, 2014. The menu would consist of foods common in the 1800's and there would be people dressed in historical costumes – perhaps invite the W.S. Hancock Society since a champagne toast to the general was suggested. The cost for the event would be \$50 per person and would not be a fundraiser but would cover costs. Maureen said she would have more details next month.
- Commemoration Day – Still determining the route of the 5K run. The Public Works Department has a map of a route through Windlestrae and Mallard Pond. Richard and Roy will get together to discuss plans. The whole event was moved to the weekend before Memorial Day for better participation.
- Community Day – Since Ruth Hardin is unable to attend meetings, it was brought up if another member of the Autumn Festival Committee could attend in her absence. Autumn Festival Committee Chair, Mary Alfarano was suggested.

- Gala Event – Tanya has agreed to chair this committee. Sue Ann also volunteered for this committee.
- It was suggested all subcommittees meet and finalize plans as much as they can and present their thoughts/ideas/plans at the July meeting.

Golf Outing Wrap Up

Richard said everyone had fun, there were no complaints and they want to do it again next year. Tanya said, as a sponsor, she was pleased with the exposure the sponsors received.

Acadia Book Update – No report

Montgomery County History Fair

Richard said the W.S. Hancock Society want to hire a band to perform period music in civil war era uniforms. He thought there wasn't enough room for the 25-piece band at the Knapp House and thought maybe they should perform in a park.

New Business:

2014 Calendar

It was suggested that the Committee develop an anniversary calendar for 2014 highlighting pictures (old and new) of the Township and listing the Committee's planned events. Stacy mentioned Upper Merion tried it and lost money on the project and ended up giving them away. It was discussed that we still do the calendar but not use it as a fundraiser and get sponsors so we could use them as giveaways or send them to everyone in the Township.

Facebook

Ginny asked if anyone had any objections to the content she added to the Committee's Facebook page. While she has received no complaints, she wanted to make sure that the Committee was okay with her posting Township events like the FDMT car wash or, most recently, thanking artist Tom Lebish for donating his painting of General Hancock to the Township. The Committee said they liked the content and had no objections.

Barnes & Noble Events

Sue Ann would like to talk with Barnes & Noble about hosting several programs next year with a Township theme. Suggested topics/speakers include: Bruce Stocking to talk about General Hancock, the Montgomery Township Historical Society to talk about the history of the Township, the Board of Supervisors to talk about the resources in the Township and future plans and authors who live in the Township. Sue Ann would appreciate any other ideas for topics.

Signage

Bud wanted to know if signs could be placed in the Township advertising the 300th Anniversary. The digitalized billboards along the Parkway can be utilized but a banner on the bridge over Route 309 was also suggested. Tanya said she would look into a marketing plan for signage and will report back in August.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next meeting – Monday, July 1st at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by
Ginny Bailey