

Montgomery 300th Anniversary Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: October 7, 2013

Location: Montgomery Township Building, Board Conference Room

Present: Joe Walsh, Stacy Crandell, Andrea Duffy, Larry Gregan, Kate Karatas, Janet McCrossen, Sue Ann Miller, Roy Rodriguez, Maureen Waddington, Bud Walleck, and Ginny Bailey

Committee Chair Joe Walsh called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the September 3, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved as distributed.

The Committee welcomed Eric Boynton from Clay Rat Studio who presented a gift of the four styles of commemorative tiles in an oak frame. Eric said the gift was to show his appreciation of our business and for taking a chance on a small business owner. Committee Chair Joe Walsh accepted the gift on behalf of the Committee.

Finance Report

The Committee approved payment of invoice from Clay Rat Studio and presented the check to Eric.

Joe reviewed status of getting new sponsors and highlighted the sponsors added since the September meeting which include, Gilmore and Associates, Traffic Planning Design, Pumpnick's Deli, and Wegmans. Both Joe and Stacy suggested that some businesses (like Wegmans) might be more inclined to "in kind" donations as opposed to giving money.

Joe has a list of the sponsors from this year's Autumn Festival and he will contact them to see if they might be persuaded to give a little more next year since we're having a Community Day in place of the Autumn Festival.

Larry and Stacy put together a budget for the Montgomery 300 Committee that will be presented to the Board of Supervisors to gain support from the Township.

Larry explained the budget and the projections show the Committee is short about \$12,000 of meeting the budget but with recent donations, that gap could be closed. Larry said we have to start putting hard numbers into the budget to see what the actual numbers will be but the budget shows the activities planned are feasible.

Old Business

Community Day

The discussion of sponsors led into the topic of Community Day.

- Stage – Stacy showed pictures of the various stage options that would cost \$10,000-\$15,000 depending on the speakers, lights, etc. included. The committee decided to go with the second option for about \$15,000 since the company does not require a bid process and the stage is more impressive. There are also more options to showcase the sponsors. Stacy suggested that if the Committee gets sponsors for each section, the sponsors could pay for Community Day.
- Fireworks – Stacy received the proposals for 3 firms and showed 2 of the proposals at the last meeting. The Committee decided to go with Celebrations Fireworks and Rick Lesinak, Director of Fire Services has reviewed and approved the layout. Stacy said if all goes well, the crowd will face the stage and after the final band finishes their set, the crowd will turn around to view the fireworks display.
- The Autumn Festival Committee will combine with the Community Day Subcommittee and Sharon Tucker and Stacy will attend the meetings. The infrastructure is in place, the Community Day Subcommittee will use it and build on it. Both Rick Lesinak and Police Chief Scott Bendig are on board.
- The tentative schedule for Community Day is:
 - 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm – Autumn Festival format with vendors
 - 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm – vendors will pack up but the food vendors will stay
 - 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm – music and activities
 - 8:30 pm – fireworks

Autumn Festival

The Committee table at Autumn Festival had a lot of interest – particularly the General Hancock carolers but people weren't there with a lot of money so they were told the carolers could be purchased at the Township Building. The winner of the teddy bear was Zachary Harding(?) who was excited to win.

Historic House Tours

Sue asked about the status of Tropiano's contract and Larry said it was with the insurance company. Two of the houses dropped out but two more were added – the Heckler House, birthplace of General Winfield Scott Hancock and the Richard Allman house. There will be a volunteer meeting on Wednesday, November 6th in the Township Community Room at 3:00 pm to train the volunteers staffing the homes and a subcommittee meeting on Friday, November 8th at 1:00 in the Township Conference Room. The press release didn't go out but the suggestion was made to have the press cover and take pictures of the tour. It was also suggested to raffle off a General Hancock caroler in the morning and afternoon of the tour but since the raffle might hurt sales of the caroler, the Committee decided against it. Ginny reported that as of October 7th, 76 people have signed up for the 10:00 am tours so there are only 23 spots left and 32 have signed up for the 1:00 pm tours.

General Hancock Birthday/Kick-Off Event

Maureen would like to start promoting the event at the Historic House tour and will have more information at the November meeting. The Joseph Ambler Inn has been very cooperative in planning this event.

Reenactment/Birthday Event/5K Run/Hunger Games

- Hunger Games – Maureen said the plans for the games are moving along.
- 5K Run – Maureen reported the “big stuff” has been dealt with and the run is on the list with Pretzel City. Stacy said Pretzel City was sending a contract similar to the parkway run. It will cost \$650 but it covers online registration and promotion. Stacy would like to work on the different sponsor levels for the run.
- Service Recognition – Andrea would like to start promoting the day of service at the Historic House tour and asked for someone at the Township to work on the certificate or commendation. Joe asked Andrea to give him the wording she wanted on the certificate.
- Reenactment – Roy has contacted Revolutionary War, Civil War and World War II groups and would like to contact a Vietnam War group if one exists. He said the county historical society has some artifacts, including the bullet from General Hancock, that perhaps they could be persuaded to loan for the event.

Oral Histories

Joe reported that Nancy is working with Jason on the histories.

Montgomery Media

Stacy and Tanya never met but we would need a letter saying Montgomery Media is doing the insert on our behalf and they would use the letter to get sponsors. Stacy said they would write the articles but we could suggest topics. It was decided to table the insert until Stacy and Tanya can meet.

Anniversary Signage

Larry said the pole for holding the banners on Horsham Road has been replaced but since the road has been widened, the signs will have to be bigger and there's concern about wind damage. He said they'd have to look into the signs that have the ability for wind to pass through and not disturb the signs. It was thought to have signs on the poles around the 5 point intersection and Route 309 but those signs cost \$400-\$500 per sign including the mounts which might get expensive. Larry said they would look into the “feather” signs that move in the wind. It was also suggested to ask the businesses in the Township include the 300th anniversary in their signage.

New Business

Caroler/Tile Incentive

Ginny reported that 11 carolers have been sold since last week and 35 tiles have been sold so she presented an idea from Sharon Tucker that we should offer an incentive that if people want to purchase the caroler, they could also purchase a commemorative tile for \$20 – a \$10 savings.

The Committee agreed it was a good idea and might help sell more tiles. It was suggested that this incentive could start at the Historic House tours but Joe thought it should start now.

Clay Rat Studio Gift

The Committee decided to use the gift for marketing purposes but the Township would keep it and display it, perhaps in the new Community Center. It was also suggested that the Committee members should sign the back and there was discussion about a time capsule.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next meeting – Monday, November 4th at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by
Ginny Bailey