Meeting: December 14, 2018

**In Attendance:**

Sherry Stratton

Betty Suto

Anthony Orisini

Rev. Webster

Missy Yeso

Katie Kendall

Elizabeth James

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Mayor Kranyjak

Julia Bliss

Rick Rodgers

Rita Randall

Chris Cleary

Joe Lovell

Reverend Webster – Called meeting to order at 11:00.

Reverend Webster provided the meeting agenda for today.

**Financial Report:** We currently have $10, 562.00 in our Project Forward bank account. We may still have 1 or 2 checks that we still need to write

**Heritage Ohio** – In the spring, we will be working closer with Heritage Ohio (March 2018). This is a key to really helping us develop Martins Ferry, future businesses, etc. Chris will continue to provide us with updates as he learns of any.

**Decorations:**

We need to set up a time and date to dismantle the Christmas decorations around town, and where we will store it.

Missy said that EZ storage is going to give us (we do not have to pay) a storage facility to hold everything.

Missy is donating the tree to Project Forward

We will most likely need the Bucket truck to haul it up there, and to take down any decorations.

Thank you Mike Yeso for putting the wrapped presents under the tree.

The date for the dismantling has not yet be determined, but will be occurring after the Holidays.

Missy said she can get new garland from Kraynaks for around the lamp post.

We have problems with the Banners, and require more brackets because the old ones were thrown away. The banners do not include everyone’s name that paid for a banner, so we have to consider re-doing them, in addition, the ones that were printed with names, the names are too small. People who paid for them have complained.

**Blue Grass Festival:** We took a vote to decide we are going to have the Blue Grass Festival, and the vote was in favor of NOT having the Blue Grass Festival this year, due to too many events on our agenda.

**Strawberry Festival:** We are thinking of doing it May/Beginning of June.

Location: TBD, we are considering closing Walnut Street, possibly between 3rd and 4th and Walnut.

It will be an easier street to close.

We are considering to hold it as a 2-day event. Friday/Saturday, but Farmers Market starts Memorial weekend.

* We could possibly move Farmers Market for that Friday (only) to help advertise the Farmers Market. We could even kickoff the Farmers Market as a 2 day event.

We are looking at the first weekend in June (3rd and 4th)

ICR may be able to get them to sponsor us, along with Southeast Equipment

Good weather for Bounce houses, slides, etc.

**Food Truck Festival** - We need to hit them up the beginning of the year.

* Food Trucks are starting in April – Barb Ballint (????)/Chuck
* Food Truck Festival – to kick off our Food Truck season

*------------- BRIEF MEETING PAUSE, TO WALK DOWN TO CHECKS AND LOANS FOR PICTURE --------*

Rev. Webster has tried multiple times to call the St. Paul Episcopal Church on Walnut, but no one has gotten back to him.

He has talked with the Mayor of Raddick, PA – but he is now running for Governor, so he is in the middle of a campaign.

Elizabeth suggested that we talk to Mayor Glenn Elliot.

**The DOORS -** Can we get someone or some of the artists, from Center Market, where we can advertise our purpose.

* We talked with the French Teacher at Ferry, who is interested in getting murals, doors painted. On individuals level or team levels.
* We also talked to her about hosting a “Paint n’ Sip” throughout town (or at the park)
* We may want to contact the Wheeling arts person (Elizabeth knows her) to have her come to a meeting or get her involved in the “arts” part of Project Forward.

**503-C:** We should invite Paul to the meeting to discuss an update on our 503C.

* We need to put together our Board of Directors
* We need to formally elect a treasurer and Secretary, we kind of have, with Katie and Rita, just not formally.
* Paul will know how to keep it where it is connected to Martins Ferry, but not keeping the funds under the city ID.

**Goals and Objectives:**

We want to help develop our goals and objectives moving forward. We need to update our goals, and see how we want to move forward.

We made a list of Goals and Objectives on the white board

Priorities:

1. Establishing our 501-C3
2. Heritage Ohio

The rest of the suggestions:

* + Getting in contact with any Developer(s)
  + Working with Ohio Means Jobs
  + List of Rental Property Available
  + Reaching out to Mansuetto
  + Establish MF new identity
  + Putting up new banners in Spring (Fall & Summer as well)
  + Establishing an amount to be matched and we set some aside for a grant
  + Business Loans (possibly 3-5 years ) for developing new businesses
  + Getting other businesses involved in Revitalization
  + Establishing Authority – Holding People/Businesses accountable
  + “Show of Hands” (like Wheeling) to fix up businesses/welcome new businesses
  + Real Estate Developing/Expand Membership
* We know that the Cracker Plant might be coming soon. That means people are going to need a place to live and shop. We need to make Martins Ferry inviting, and step up our game.
* The Times Leader is planning an “After hours” sometimes around St. Patrick’s Day
* Joe Lovell, we would like to Partner with the Lions Club in future events and provide support to each group.
* Should we have any members of Project Forward attend the council meetings?

\*\*The End of the Year Project Forward Christmas Party will be December 21st, at 6:30pm, at the ELKS. IF you are bringing a spouse, the cost is $12.00. Pay the money to Rita Randall.

MEETING HAS CONCLUDED AT 12:38

***The next meeting will be, Thursday January 18th (11:00), Webster Hall.***

***I hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday and a Merry Christmas!!!***