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Meeting Date: 5/17/20218 Time: 11:00 am Location: Webster Hall

In Attendance:

Bill Webster ( President)

Anthony Orsini

Rita Randall (Treasurer) Sherry Stratton

Katie Kendall (Secretary) Marian Klier

Jim Schramm Rick Rodgers

Betty Suto David Stammerjohn

Brooke Robinson Paul Stecker

Reese Hawl Joe Lovell

Dan Stephens

Meeting called to order by William Webster at 11:02am

***Minutes (Katie Kendall):***

***Financial Report (Rita Randall):***

We currently have $12, 519.92 in our account.

Rita said that we need to get the money approved by the group before we write any checks

***Heritage OHIO/Main Street (Chris Cleary*)**

Field Trip to Marietta. They are officially a main street, the direction that we would like to head in. Chris spent time down there, walked around and talked with someone there. We can go to Chris’s office for the webinars.

They talked about creative economics, bringing artists, designers, art related, musicians, etc. There is a list of occupations on their site. More entrepreneurship that you can try and convince to come to our town. Many of their business owners, are now on city council, members of organization, heritage Ohio, etc.

They need a low rate space that is available to them. You can set up a temporary space that is outdoors, for an artist. It focuses on a more creative field.

Reverend Stammerjohn suggested using our churches where they can set up these spaces and “renting” those spots, which gives the churches some income.

Fiscal structures: Using murals and paintings to put on the buildings, but it isn’t actual paint, so it doesn’t ruin the buildings. Marietta uses their colleges and their programs to help with this. They are scale-able and can be placed anywhere.

The established a local art board, to recruit all art and approve all art that is hung up. The board actually handles everything, and it can be a small panel of 3 of us to do this. This helps to focus on promotion, integration and expansion of arts in Martins Ferry.

Chris talked to Christy Thomas, who suggested to have our group come down, sit with her for an hour or so and tour Marietta and see what they do right and wrong. They have a tough time with pedestrians and crossing the street. They talked about tax incentive to revitalize buildings. We are looking at late June 30th, July 7th and July 14th.

Begin the process of “branding” our community so that it is easily identified as what we want it to be. People need to recognize what they are going to get when they come to Martins Ferry. They have 25 restaurants.

* Sherry sent Bill a link on “National Funding for sacred places”, it got picked out of over 1,000’s, and the Grace Presbyterian was selected in the top 32. They are looking for the top 12.
* We have to try and digitize old pictures of our buildings and our town. Putting some of those pictures on the side of the Grace Presb. Church, with the Project Forward logo along with a little number 1. Talk to Don Fenerdy about the pictures, Joe Lovell is willing to take the pictures to do this.
* Dan is making a motion to approve, Joe is second the motion. All in Favor – Revisit at the next meeting the costs.

***Committees***

*Farmers Market (Betty Suto and Sherry Stratton)*

* Starts next Friday, May 25th. There are 12-14 vendors. ½ of 5th street, closing. Sherry and Betty need men help to assist with set up. The mayor approved

*Flags (Missy Yeso)*

* Everyone liked the Flag designs for Fall. They are $25.00, will have it set up at Farmers Market, and open to Businesses and towns people to purchase. No names will be on these.

*Food Trucks (Barb Ballint)*

* Cheese Melt: Thursday – every week, 11-2pm, Betty will follow up.

***Strawberry Festival (Marian Klier)***

They cleaned about 10lbs of strawberries, and still about 20 lbs left.

Sherry bought containers. You get about 30 servings. We need about 10 boxes, if we plan on 1000 people/servings.

During the Festival: We have a list (attached) of events and activities that are going during the festival.

* Beverages
* Car show
* Coloring contest for the kids
* Cook Book/recipes for strawberry/Library
  + The library will be hosting a recipe card swap at the library May 26th at 2pm
* Decorations – red strawberry balloons
* Food Trucks: Ideal Provision, Cheese Melt, Lions Club, Kettle Corn, First Presbyterian – Confirmed
* Entertainment: Bill Gorby and Musical Mercenaries, waiting on others to confirm
* Lions Club Pancake Breakfast – Confirmed at 9:00 – 11:30 am
* Porta Johns (2 ordered) – still awaiting the Porta Johns
* Santa Clause Coming – people are talking about it 😊
* Strawberries:
  + Purchase strawberries – 10 boxes of frozen strawberries from Thompsons Bakery – Sherry said they will take them out on Thursday night, so they thaw out.
  + Anthony motion to pay $1,000.00 to pay Thompsons for the food, Marian second the motion. All in favor
    - * Whip Cream: They have 15lb buckets and 30lb buckets. Decided to get 2 - 15lb buckets, Lions can use some of that as well.
      * Shortcakes are also coming from the Thompsons. $23.00 for around 122 in a package. It was going to cost us $1.01 to assemble everything (just includes food, not paper products)
      * Joe made a motion to reimburse Sherry, Rick second the motion. All in favor.
      * Betty is going to check at Sam’s Club for paper products. Joe is motioning $500.00 for paper goods, Paul second the motion. All in favor.

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* Tables and Chairs (12 Project Forward tables) – The city has tables, we are getting chairs from the Rec Center. We can use the city truck to pick up the chairs.
  + Vendors and Crafters (15 Vendors @ $10.00 per table)
    - One of the vendors is Carrie, who does “Damsels in Distress” and would like extra space to teach kids about Self-defense.
    - Mark Thomas, Chris Burholder, Dave Smith, Bob Krajnyak, etc.
    - How much space can Blazing Fun have, he wants to bring the big slide and a rock climbing wall.
* Money Table: Chris has the wristbands and our liquor license. WAY TO GO CHRIS 😊
* $150.00 for the permit of Liquor license – Paul second the motion, all in favor
  + - Check for the Beer distributors – Under the Ohio Law, we can not have the beer Loaned, we have to buy the beer. Everything has to be in cups.
    - Hightower Brewing will be setting up, Chris and Bill will go and talk to them.
    - Vino Piccin – working on getting a slushy
    - Blank Check for the beer distributor, Chris made a motion, Dan second the motion. All in favor.
    - Entertainment: $2,000.00, Dan made a motion, Joe Lovell second the motion.
    - Santa Clause is going to come, in Bermuda shorts. $80.00 for 2 hours. Anthony motion, Chris second the motion, all in favor.
    - Scott is working on T-shirts for Strawberry Festival at his Graphic design.
* Motion to pay Scott for the t-shirts, Sherry made a motion, and Dan second the motion.
* We are going to donate to NHS for those who volunteer. The rest will be to sell. $500.00 for t-shirts.
* Project Forward members are responsible to pay for their own. Motion by Sherry, second by Marian, all in favor.
* We are giving out 3 Gift Certificates to the Deluxe Toy & Hobby, 3 different age groups:
  + Prek – K
  + 1st and 2nd
  + 3rd and 4th
* Wristbands – Are for alcohol, plus buy tickets to buy the alcohol.
* Tickets for Strawberry shortcake – will be paid at the wristband stand, looking to charge $4.00 per dessert
* Tents: We can ask Bobbi Howard about swim team, the chamber has tents, the church, Sherry has a 10x10.
* Heidi Clark is selling advertising for the Strawberry Festival, $300.00 per merchant. We are getting free advertising from WTRF 7.
  + Sherry makes a motion to not do advertising campaign with WTOV 9, Dan second the motion. No opposed, all in favor.

*Winter Festival (Missy Yeso)*

*Nothing at this time*

*OVAC Parade (Dan Stephens)*

* If he doesn’t hear anything back from them in the next week or 2, he is going to table it for next year.

Unfinished Business:

1. Grants: No updates on the grants at this time.
2. Committee for Revitalization - build business survey
3. Downtown Spring Clean up – Only 3 people showed up for Spring Clean up. We got a couple things done. Lions got their flowers planted.
4. Housing Development : Houses up in Crawford heights, on housing development.
5. Promotional Video through JVS (Brooke Robinson) & New Website: We need to come up with a new website domain, and it needs to be catchy.
   1. Projectfowardmf.org
   2. Pforward.org
   3. Projectforward.com - All in favor

* We have to pay for the domain, we use Wix. Our 2 options are the Basic - $60.00 year, the Combo package is $132.00/year, free domain with that package, no Wix ads, and more GB. Brooke recommends the $132.00
* Brooke is going to work on looking at other domains so that Wix does not own the domain. All in Favor
* For our Go Fundme Page, we need our account numbers. We are setting up this afternoon.

1. Progress on 501C3 non profit status (Paul Stecker): The coproation is set up, and we are filed and registered. We applied for non-profit status. We will hear back in the next 6 months or so on it.
2. *St. Paul’s Episcopal Church property:* Bill has not heard back from anyone. Rev. Stammerjohn said that the inside is pretty awful. The city is going to cut the grass. Chris is going to talk to the Landbank about this property.
3. *Status on white fence in front of burned lot of 4th street:* We are not moving forward at this time with it.
4. Welcome Sign relocation project: The students are moving along with the sign.

New Business:

* 1. Rev. Webster was appointed to the Belmont County Tourism board.
  2. We extended an invitation to the County Commissioners to attend our meetings.
  3. The executive board would like to move the Project Forward meetings at 9:00am rather than 11:00am, Jim Schramm made a motion to start meetings at 9:00am, Paul second. All in favor! Starting this in August.
  4. Now that we are a separate corporation, we need to purchase a tax software to align our books for the end of the year, since we have to file a tax return. Anthony is going to look into a separate software, and will talk to Rita about it. The other option is QuickBooks, which is $300.00
  5. Opening a Bank account, with 3 people on the account. Only 1 person will be required to sign. We are still

Other Business:

* Council is looking at new parking meters, may be a $40-50k investment, the old ones no longer work. (Chris and the Mayor are going to bring something to city council is going to talk about it at the next meeting)

Meeting adjourned at 12:51pm, Joe motioned to adjourn, and Betty second the meeting.

**\*\*\* NEXT MEETING IS THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2018 at 11:00AM at Webster Hall\*\*\***