

Attendees: Dave Laufer, Mike Killgore, Chuck Price, Arlene Winn, Darla Joy (excused Jenny Lantz). 3 possible committee members; Mark Aby, Suellen Harral and Vicky Mast.

Mtg called to order at 6:30 pm

Started the meeting by having each of our visitors introduce themselves and briefly share with the committee their interest in joining WCDC.

Vicky: Lives on main street and wants to support our committee and help support our goals and what we are doing for the community.

Mark: Has been talking with Chuck and our committee fits what he wants to do to help our community and be part of our committee.

Suellen: Grew up in Athena, lived in Weston and wants to help in our community. She has working knowledge of our city and feels she can be a great help to our committee.

Read minutes from previous mtg approved upon corrections: Banners @ South Welcome site would hang from the fence.

Financial report: No update as Arlene was not able to get information from the City recorder. However, she did confirm from the brick fund one expense of \$150 for new plaques that were ordered.

Committee voted and approved \$73.33 for Chuck Price to purchase rope for the covered wagon at the North Welcome site. Continued discussion regarding the covered wagon that Mike and Mark will inspect the covered wagon and come up with a plan to repair/reinforce what is holding the canvas. They will let us know if material is needed to purchase to ensure the canvas is secure for the winter.

Old Business:

Line item for grants: This was approved at City Council meeting for \$10,000 so when we apply for a grant and are awarded we have it written in the budget. Now we need to start brainstorming what we want as a project or lump sum projects to begin applying for grants.

Plaque proceeds to city line item: Dave spoke with City Council and our request to have the auditor approve or deny the use of Brick fund money used at committees discretion and not just on purchase of bricks. City council was ok with our request but we need to get a response from the auditor before we can move forward with spending any brick funds on anything other than bricks for the heritage wall.

Replacement of missing plaques: Trying to tie families together so that missing plaques will be placed by other family members plaques already on the wall. Relying on committee members' knowledge as still unable to access records from the city recorder. Will ask Jenny Lantz if this could be put on the City Council agenda to discuss having access to records so that we can have all our records for the heritage wall updated.

Welcome site gravel: Lois Philips presented our committee with a certificate she had won for 10 yards of gravel. This certificate is from Thacker Excavating. Mike will contact Correy Thacker to discuss putting the gravel at both North and South sites. Arlene volunteered rock from their rock pit to lay down first before the gravel.

Banners: Dave discussed with the City Council the banner idea. Council liked the idea but will review our request and they will vote at their next City Council meeting and let us know what they decide. If ok'd we can move forward with applying for grants to purchase 6 banners. Estimated cost would be \$160 each for 4 ft by 12 ft. Heavy vinyl, each banner to be displayed only a few months a year estimating they would last us many years. Dave would like to have a sub committee to work on the design of banners. Suellen said she would discuss with her husband Doug as he has experience designing signs and let us know at the next meeting.

Yard of the month: September winner was Lori Mahan and husband on N. Franklin St. October winner was Kasandr and Matthew Studer N. Mill St. There will be no more yard of the month until May 2024.

Social Media: Mike said he would like to work on this with everyone's approval. He would need to create an email account and then create a page on Facebook with everyone in committee as administrators. Members will email/text name ideas to Mike of what we would like to call our FB page. We will discuss at the next meeting what names were suggested and we can decide what fits our mission best.

Touch up wood signs: The sign at Central Station is high visibility and needs to be fixed. Would like to talk to the owner about painting the sign to look more attractive. Our committee is willing to help and maybe the owner would want to do it themselves or would be willing to work with the committee to help fix.

New Business:

Next month talk about trees, plants and design vision for main street. Get the support of businesses and possibly help with watering. Need to decide about irrigation and hanging plants such as hanging baskets on light posts. Comprehensive plan - replace trees that the city planted, have baskets and planters and have this be a horticulture project and work together with other committees and council.

Appreciate new potential members to our committee and will wait on City council approval of applications.

Next mtg Monday, November 27th.

Mtg adjourned at 6:30 pm