**Beautification/Tourism Commission Minutes**

February 20, 2020

**Members Present**: Tom Sauer, Jo Ann Simmons, Bruce Luthy, Linda Radar, Bobbi Junkin, Donella Butler, Brenda Owen, Sandra Starr, Patti Carter and Cynthia Lawder. Also present were City Councilman Ray Allison and potential new member Mary Ann Heberlie.

**Pledge of Allegiance**: All members stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**: Minutes of the January 17, 2020 meeting were read. Linda Rader advised that the card sent to Betty Wagner was from the wife of the great grandson of Shadrach Bond advising us of his passing. She also said that he really enjoyed his last visit to Chester. After that correction, Tom made the motion to approve; Linda seconded. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Linda Rader’s report was presented. The non-tax amount is $25,522.98. The Stone Cottage fund is $737.17. The report will be filed for audit.

**Correspondence**: No report.

**Public Petitions**: None.

**Standing Committee Reports**:

Anti-Litter: Bruce asked about ordinances for business signage, citing the mobile sign at the Moose club. It was noted that the banner signs uptown were using the flag pole holders. Bruce will do research into other town’s rules.

Banners/Christmas lights: Some of the banners are showing some deterioration. Discussion was held regarding the placement of the Christmas banners in a timely manner. Tom and Cynthia will look into the problem. Linda presented the Home Town Heroes banners. They will be displayed from Memorial Day to Veteran’s Day for a period of 2 – 4 years, depending on wear. They will be installed on the poles from the High School, along the parade route to the Court House, then along Opdyke to the Grade School.

City Welcome sign: No report.

Farmer’s Market: Patti reported that due to new government rules the vendors will have to register with the city for a license to sell. Patti will have packets of information for potential vendors and have a meeting with them.

Planters: We need to look for someone to take on the project of planting the pots. Bruce advised that one of the realtors at Golden Key might be interested. Cynthia will talk with local garden shop for bids as well. There are a total of 25 – 26 pots to fill.

Riverboat/Tour Programming: Patti presented the 2020 boat schedule. She advised that the boats will not provide a city map, so we will have to provide our own map. We need guides at the Cohen Home when the boats are here during tour times.

Take-Pride Award: Linda and Jo Ann advised that the awards start up in April. We will honor businesses too.

Historic Preservation: Brenda talked about the entry to the HGTV Home Town Renewal on behalf of the River City Renewal. The HGTV show will air in 2021 for 6 shows. Their prerequisites were population less than 40,000, good history, unique identity (Popeye) and good architecture.

**Special Committee Reports:**

Riverfront Improvements**:**  Sandra advised that there is concern about the placement of the anchor. An alternative location is yet to be decided.

Popeye Character Self-Guided tour: The QR codes and cost of $600 was approved by the City Council.

Potential park at corner of Swanwick and State streets: Cynthia gave an update for the potential mural. Discussion was conducted about a barrier of a split rail fence instead of the concrete blocks.

**Committee Function Reports**:

Public Relations: No report.

City Council Update: No report.

Welcome Center Update: No report.

Randolph County Tourism: No report.

**Old Business**:

Murals: Cynthia advised that there was no update on the mural on the Korando building.

**New Business:**

Jo Ann talked about putting benches on Swanwick Street.

Next Meeting: February 20, 2020 at City Hall. 6:30PM.

At 7:16PM, Bob Lockhart made the motion to adjourn; Linda Rader seconded. Motion carried.