**Beautification/Tourism Commission Minutes**

August 20, 2020

**Members Present**: JoAnn Simmons, Linda Rader, Donella Butler, Brenda Owen, Mary Ann Heberlie, Melissa Gross, Connie Surman, Bob Lockhart, Bruce Luthy Sr. Cynthia Lawder, and guest Carla Draves. City Councilman Ray Allison was not in attendance. All attendees were masked and properly social distanced.

**Pledge of Allegiance**: All members stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**: Minutes of the July 16 meeting were read. Bob made the motion to approve; Linda seconded. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Linda Rader’s report was presented. The bank account balance is $28,127.35 The Stone Cottage fund is $737.17. The non-taxable amount is $25,522.98. It will be set aside for audit.

**Correspondence**: No report.

**Public Petitions**: None.

**Standing Committee Reports**:

Anti-Litter and Signage: The signage around town needs to be consistent in size, font and color control. The banners used by stores are questionable. Are they placed where the Boy Scouts put the American Flags? Bruce will conduct some research on this topic.

Banners/Christmas lights: No report. Patty Carter sent a note advising of the city’s plans for a large snow globe and train for the kids during Christmas On The River. Patty wants us to contribute to these expenses. We decided to vote on this contribution at a later time when we knew more about expectations.

City Welcome sign: No report.

Planters: 2 new planters, self-watering, were purchased and placed in front of gazebo park. Tony West is considering planting the city planters with bulbs this fall, for early blooms next spring.

Riverboat/Tour Programming: No report.

Take-Pride Award: Linda and JoAnn advised that the awards were presented to Carolyn Rucker at 1808 High Street and to the Benedict’s at 200 Riverview.

Tourism: JoAnn described the Popeye photo bench that we are considering. Brenda wants to install a Penny Machine with Popeye character choices at the Welcome Center.

Historic Preservation: Brenda advised that she has been on the National Park Service web site; we are a major stop on the Lewis & Clark trail. This will be a huge benefit with increased tourism for us in the future. Fort Chartres in Ruma has been recognized as a historic site as well as Pierre Menard Home and Fort Kaskaskia.

**Special Committee Reports:**

Riverfront Improvements**:** Cynthia reported that the city is storing the picnic tables and benches. Steve Renner advised that they will need to pour concrete pads for them. JoAnn advised that it will cost $2,786 for 4 new metal picnic tables, 6 ft. long. We will check with Ultra Play in Red Bud for an additional quote.

Popeye Character Self-Guided tour: The QR codes are installed. Masks were installed on Brutus and Popeye’s nephews. The new statue that will be installed this year will be placed at the base of the city steps.

Potential park at corner of Swanwick and State streets: Cynthia advised that the landscaping bid from Kuekers will be approximately $11,500 to $15,000, including the split rail fence. The mural quotes run from $3,500 to about $6,000. Steve Renner advised that they will be removing the concrete. Brenda read a note from Terri Crum about Cole park and the renovations needed. It was noted that the pool was a WPA project and is one of 26 left in the U.S. A splash park was discussed.

**Committee Function Reports**:
Public Relations: No report.
City Council Update: No report.

Welcome Center Update: No repot
Randolph County Tourism: No report.

**Old Business**:

Brochures: Donella reported that the Popeye statues map needs to be redone and the statues put in logical order. Everyone agreed. This year’s new statue will be located at base of the city steps.

Advertising Signage along Interstate 55: No report.

**New Business:**

Handout regarding the Commission structure was handed out.

Next Meeting: September 17, at City Hall. 6:30PM.
At 7:52PM, Melissa made the motion to adjourn; JoAnn seconded. Motion carried.