**Beautification/Tourism Commission Minutes**

**May 20, 2021**

**Members Present:** Donella Butler, JoAnn Simmons, Bob Lockhart, Carla Draves, Linda Rader, Brenda Owen and Cynthia Lawder. Also attending: City Alderman Ray Allison.

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

**Minutes of the previous meeting** were read. Bob made the motion to approve; Linda seconded. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Linda presented her report. The non-tax amount is $25,522.98. Stone Cottage is $737.17. The report will be set aside for audit.

**Resignations**: We accepted the resignations of Bruce Luthy, Sr., and Connie Surman. Discussion was held regarding openings on the commission and finding potential members.

**Planters**: The planters have been planted and watered. Tony West asked for some new planters to replace several he remembered from last year including the planter by the Subway shop. He plans to put concrete in the bottom of these so moving the would be difficult. Brenda is exploring whether Sherwin Farms in Lenzburg might be a source of wholesale greenery for holiday pot decoration.

**Riverboats**: Patti Carter has advised that there are no boats scheduled for a stop in Chester. Bob said that there was no information of the last boat that came in at the Cohen House. Linda will give Patti telephone numbers of available workers/guides. They will also post times of riverboats docking in Chester on Facebook.

**Take Pride Award**: JoAnn and Linda advised the two recipients for May are: Bitsy & Dean Link, on Prairie Lane and Jason & Tisha Coffey, on Estate Drive.

**Tourism**: Brenda and Melissa did a video tour, starting at the Welcome Center, then to Fort Kaskaskia and the Pierre Menard Home, with several stops along the way. At Fort Kaskaskia, the SIU archaeology study group have dug up info on an English fort. The official Lewis & Clark website will have a national kickoff in the summer using the edited submitted videos from along the trail. We will be notified when the finished video(s) are ready.

Joann advised that the Popeye bench has been approved by King Syndicates. We do not have a price yet.

Brenda advised that she got a quote on the Penny Machine of $3,450 plus shipping. It comes with 4 images and a 2 year warranty.

Map of the Popeye statues: the maps are available at: Best Western Motel, Reids, Library, Welcome Center, Spinach Can and City Hall. JoAnn suggested that we put them at Lucy’s also. Brenda will contact Mike McClure and suggest that he consider this map be on the tour/route for tourists.

**Historic Preservation**: No report.

**Riverfront Improvements** Ray Allison asked who will pay for the picnic tables that we are buying for the riverfront. Answer: Beautification.

Placement of the anchor was discussed. It will be put between the port of Chester sign and the interpretive displays. Cynthia will ask the street department to make the move as they have had the anchor in storage for us.

The concrete parking lot to be constructed using grant funding will start in a month. Cynthia advised that she has talked with the railroad about ownership of the retaining wall by the underpass. They will advise.

**Potential plaza at corner of Swanwick and State streets:**  No report.

**Public Relations**: Ray Allison will find out who is our contact with Randolph County tourism.

**City Council Update:** Ray Allison advised that the city is involved in a retaining wall project on High street at St. John’s School. St. John’s is paying for the wall; the city is paying for the walk.

**Next meeting agenda items include**: 4/8/2024 Solar Eclipse, 4 openings on the commission. (Cynthia to check with Reuel Smith.)

 **Welcome Center**: the center is open, but the deck remains closed.

**Next meeting**: June 17, 2021, at 6:30PM

At 7:40PM, JoAnn made the motion to adjourn; Linda seconded. Motion carried.