**CHESTER BEAUTIFICATION/TOURISM COMMISSION MINUTES**

October 21, 2021

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**  Brenda Owen, Linda Rader, JoAnn Simmons, Cynthia Lawder, Donella Butler, Bob Lockhart, Melissa Gross, Carla Draves, Linda Schafer

Also attending: Shane Wagner, Planning Commission

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Members stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Motion to approve was made by Cynthia, seconded by Bob. Motion carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Balance on hand $27,469.16: non-tax income $26,452.98, 2021 total hotel/motel tax income $5,975.64, 2020 total hotel/motel tax income $6,387.10, Stone Cottage fund $737.17. A $200.00 charge for hay bales and other decorations for the Fall Festival will be reflected in next month’s report. The report will be set aside for audit.

**PUBLIC PETITIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:** Shane Wagner, representing the Planning Commission, advised the Commission of the many perks and incentives available to those who want to start a new business or purchase a building in Chester that would be eligible for an incentive package. The group discussed what we can do as a town to encourage new enterprise and specifically, the Commission can help with word-of-mouth and make the information available in Tourism South.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

 **Hometown Proud:** No report.

 **Take Pride Award:** Bob and Christy Rhodes, Swanwick Street

 Charles and Norma Baughman, Opdyke Street

 **Planters:** Greenery for the winter months was discussed. It was decided to use artificial greenery and several in the group offered artificial Christmas trees.

 **Riverboat/Tour Programming:** There was a total of three boats this season.

 there are no more scheduled to dock.

 **Tourism:** The Penny Press Machine has been installed at the Welcome Center.

 Brenda passed around a sample of each pattern.

 **Historic Preservation:** Brenda has been in contact with a U of I graduate student working in historic preservation who is interested in a Chester project to get properties on the Historic Register and explore their use.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

 **Riverfront Improvement:** JoAnn met with Mayor Page and received approval for

 her ideas of placing large decorative blocks as a backdrop, planting flowers and

 placing the anchor. She will continue to work on this project.

 **State and Swanwick Green Space:** Cynthia reported that DJ Kennedy has

 expressed an interest in painting the mural

**COMMISSION FUNCTION REPORTS:**

 **Public Relations:** No report.

 **City Council Update:** No report.

 **Welcome Center Update:** Bob reported that the observation deck is still

 an ongoing project. He also stated that the welcome Center needs brochures.

 **Randolph County Tourism:** No report

**OLD BUSINESS:**

 **Commission Openings:** Linda Schafer was welcomed as a new member.

 Openings still remain.

 **Fall Festival:** By all reports, the Fall Festival was a huge success.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There will be Christmas on the River this year. Brenda will follow up with Patti Carter regarding Christmas decorations in the pots and will check with Taylor’s Treasures for inexpensive artificial trees.

Regarding the Riverfront Improvement Project, Melissa made a motion that the project not exceed $3,500.00. Bob seconded. The project will be presented to the City Council for approval.

**ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING:**

JoAnn moved to adjourn, Carla seconded.

 The next meeting is November 18, 6:30 pm, City Hall.