**CHESTER BEAUTIFICATION/TOURISM COMMISSION MINUTES**

November 18, 2021

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

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

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Motion to approve was made by Linda Rader, seconded by Linda Schafer. Motion carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Balance on hand $27,270.22, 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 $737.17. The report will be set aside for audit.

**PUBLIC PETITIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:** No report.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

 **Hometown Proud:** There was a discussion about a campaign to raise the

 interest of local residents.

 **Take Pride Award:** Cathy Lowery, Meadow Lane, Chester

 Gary and Deb Rust, Ben Street, Chester

 **Planters:** Tony West has removed the annuals from the planters. The planters will be decorated prior to Christmas on the River. Anyone available to help will meet at the Gazebo November 20. Donated artificial Christmas trees will provide the greenery, with handmade bows and decorative sticks.

 **Riverboat/Tour Programming:** Brenda met with Patti Carter. Patti has a Riverboat

 schedule for next year. The group discussed the impact of the new dock that was

 constructed at Kimmswick. There was also a discussion about expanding the tours

 offered at our stop, and suggestions for those new tours.

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

 The first collection from the machine was $82.50. Bob Lockhart has a key and will

 empty the machine and deliver the funds to Bethany Berner.

 Also, Brenda met with Mayor Page to discuss the expanded plans for the riverfront

 enhancement project. There is a grant available.

 **Historic Preservation:** During Christmas on the River, Brenda will host Nathan

 Cooper, a U of I graduate student working in historic preservation. He is interested in a project to add properties to the National Register and suggest ways for the properties to be used to enhance the town’s economy.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

 **Riverfront Improvement:** Mayor Page has given approval for JoAnn’s plan of

 placing large decorative blocks as a backdrop, planting flowers and placing the

 anchor. Ray Allison has also given approval. $2,962.00 for the blocks is within

 the budget. Steve Renner will act as liaison with the block manufacturer.

 **State and Swanwick Green Space:** Cynthia reported that three artists have

 expressed interest in painting the mural. Cynthia will meet with each one to

 obtain their plan and their price.

**COMMISSION FUNCTION REPORTS:**

 **Public Relations:** Christy Orr has let us know that it is time to place ads for next

 year in the Illinois South Tourism Guide. Christy will help us with design work and getting the ad placed.

 **City Council Update:** No report.

 **Welcome Center Update:** Bob reported that the observation deck repair project

 is still stalled.

 **Randolph County Tourism:** No report

**OLD BUSINESS:**

 **Commission Openings:** Openings still remain. Deb Rust was contacted but indicated

 she was not able at this time. Deb suggested Jody Springer and Donella will contact

 her.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

 **Christmas on the River** will take place this year. Patti Carter has approved the

 design for the planters.

 **Ad in Tourism Times.**  The Commission voted to purchase a ¼ page ad in the Illinois South Tourism Guide. Brenda will coordinate.

 **Planters.**  Bob made a motion not to exceed $100.00 for the Christmas decorations.

 JoAnn seconded the motion.

**ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING:**

Cynthia moved to adjourn, Bob seconded the motion.

 The Commission will not meet in December. The next meeting is Thursday,

 January 20, 2022, 6:30 pm.