**CHESTER BEAUTIFICATION/TOURISM COMMISSION MINUTES**

June 16, 2022

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**  Brenda Owen, Linda Rader, JoAnn Simmons, Cynthia Lawder, Donella Butler, Bob Lockhart, Carla Draves, Mary Ann Heberlie, Tony West.

Also attending, Ray Allison, City Council Rep; Bob Buckham, Alderman Liaison; Jay Allison,

Cole Park Superintendent; and Barry Harle, prospective member.

Guests Jan Brand and David Branscom.

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

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

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**  Balance on hand $23,237.98, non-tax income $26,773.25 with the increase due to the Penny Machine, Stone Cottage $737.17. The Penny machine fund is

$639.86. The report will be set aside for audit.

**PUBLIC PETITIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**

A $100.00 memorial was received in honor of Marlene Seymour.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

 **Hometown Proud:** No report.

 **Take Pride Award:** David and Tracy Greene, 1416 Allendale

 Dan and Diane Hecht, 1422 Oak

 Jo Ann suggested that an end of year drawing of the winners for each month

 be held with $100.00 to the winner. Linda Rader moved to create a $100 incentive

 drawing, Bob seconded the motion. The motion passed.

 **Planters:** The planters are being watered daily due to heat. Increasing the budget for

 planters in the next budget cycle was discussed. Ideas for expansion were discussed, including a butterfly garden.

 **Riverboat/Tour Programming:** It was reported that seven people have now been

 trained as tour guides. Linda Rader stated that the riverfront at the boat docking area

 is much improved. Kudos to JoAnn Simmons and Jay Allison for their efforts. It was

 reported that there were no riverboat visitors to the Welcome Center, Cohen House,

 Museum, or the Stone Cottage from the June 11 docking. The upcoming docking

 of the American Melody on June 21, will offer the character trail and local history

 tours. It was also noted that Ste. Genevieve did not fulfill its contract, and consequently

 they will have no tour presence. Options for additional tours were discussed including

 themed tours and a French Connection Tour covering Fort de Chartres, Creole House,

 Fort Kaskaskia, Menard Home, Kaskaskia Island.

 **Tourism:** Regarding the change machine for the Welcome Center, we will have to

 buy and maintain the machine. No action will be taken at this time. The Penny Machine

 was jammed for a time and has been repaired by Bob Owen. The Stone Cottage was

 deep cleaned and plantings were trimmed in preparation for visitors. The mortar

 continues to fail with no solutions at this time.

 **Historic Preservation:** Nathan Cooper, historic preservationist, will be

 contacting Brenda to move forward with his Registry work.

 **Tourism Data Collection:** Brenda has retrieved the visitor log at the Visitor’s

 Center and will create a spread sheet recording data from the log.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

 **Riverfront Improvement:** The project has greatly improved the area. It was

 suggested that the banners be hung again. JoAnn suggested that the mural on

 the wall at the riverfront be restored. She will speak to the Art Guild and will get

 pricing for paint.

 **State and Swanwick Green Space:**  Cynthia introduced David Branscom, artist, and

 Jan Brand, Jan Can Paint. David presented a slide show of his artwork, and then

 presented his design submission for the mural. It measures 72’x12’. It is estimated that

 the project will take 5-6 weeks.

 **Eclipse 2024:** Cynthia reported that plans are in the beginning stages.

**COMMISSION FUNCTION REPORTS:**

 **Public Relations:** No report.

 **City Council Update:** No report.

 **Welcome Center Update:** Bob reported that there were no visitors from the boat. He

 also reported that a bike rack has been installed.

 **Randolph County Tourism:** No report.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

 **Commission Openings:** Barry Harle has been submitted to be a new member. Two

 openings remain.

 **Refurbish Popeye Murals at Gazebo Park:** The City is responsible for upkeep and

 the Commission will share the cost. JoAnn made a motion to refurbish the murals on

 both buildings. Linda seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Jay Allison asked who was responsible for the upkeep on the “Welcome to Chester”

 signs. The sign at the Bridge is in poor condition. Brenda will follow-up.

 Cynthia moved to proceed with the Green Space Mural Project at a cost not to exceed

 $5,800.00, pending Committee approval of the final artwork. Mary Ann seconded the

 motion. The motion passed. Cynthia will solicit donations to help with this project.

**ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING:**

Carla made and Linda seconded a motion to adjourn.

 The next meeting is Thursday, July 21, 2022, at 6:30 pm at City Hall.