**CHESTER BEAUTIFICATION/TOURISM COMMISSION MINUTES**

July 21, 2022

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

Also attending: Bob Buckham, Alderman Liaison, and Barry Harle, prospective member.

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

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

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**  Balance on hand $22, 987.08 with reimbursement to JoAnn Simmons for purchase of containers for planters at the riverfront project, non-tax income $27,422.50, Penny Machine $819.12, Stone Cottage $787.17 which increased $50.00

from riverboat company donation because Cottage was open for tour. The report will be set aside for audit.

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

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

 **Take Pride Award:** Larry and Judy Burton, 6 Washington

 Mike and Janet Herschbach, 457 W. German

**Planters:** Brenda reported that at some point Tony said he will need to purchase fertilizer.

 **Riverboat/Tour Programming:** Linda Rader reported that boats are expected on

 July 23 and July 30.

 **Tourism:** The Chester brochure and map is going to be updated. Members were asked

 for suggestions on information to be included. Also, Brenda sent an interesting

 newspaper article to members detailing archaeological discoveries at Ft. Kaskaskia,

 which added to the history of explorers Lewis and Clark. There was considerable

discussion regarding the new illustrator for the Popeye cartoon strip and his vision for the characters. It was reiterated that our focus is to honor Elzie Segar as a native son and to preserve the historical integrity of the Popeye comic strip. In a conversation with Brenda, Mike McClure suggested that by adding a statue every year, Popeye has stayed in the public awareness. Members were asked for ideas on how to continue generating Popeye interest. Bob Buckham suggested that we examine the possibility of reprinting the Popeye comic books.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

 **Riverfront Improvement:** JoAnn reported that the banners have been hung, flowers

 have been planted. Setting the anchor and finishing touches are all that remain. The

 Riverfront Committee also presented the following suggestions for continuing

 improvement of the area: add two more picnic tables, add three additional metal

 benches, plant trees to replace those that are on the extreme edge of the riverbank,

 the addition of a sundial, Martin houses, a porta-potty, riprap along the riverbank, a

 lighthouse placed on the water intake, signs for directions to local places and wildflowers planted. Regarding the retaining wall with the painted mural, Jay

 Allison will clean the sidewalk, and whether or not the railroad is responsible for

 that area is still being investigated. It was also suggested that members could

 repaint the wall.

 **State and Swanwick Green Space:** Cynthia stated that the mural project will start

 in about a week. She has received $1,350.00 in donations and will place an article

 in the paper.

 **Eclipse 2024:** Cynthia reported that planning continues and she will have samples

 of banners at the next meeting.

**COMMISSION FUNCTION REPORTS:**

 **Public Relations:** No report.

 **City Council Update:** No report.

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

 complete and the area is again open to the public.

 **Randolph County Tourism:** No report.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

 **Commission Openings:** Linda Rader did some follow up work on the status

 of the request for Barry Harle to be approved as a member. It is expected that the

 approval will be complete by the next meeting. Two openings remain.

 **Refurbish Popeye Murals at Gazebo Park:** A message was sent to Ted Mueller

 requesting that he submit a quote for refurbishing the murals. At this time there

 has been no response.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Bob Lockhart asked the members if they had any knowledge of, or information on

 the Chester Army Airfield, which was a training facility in 1942-1944. Information is

 being gathered for a program at the Chester Library.

**ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING:**

JoAnn made and Bob seconded a motion to adjourn.

The next meeting is Thursday, August 18, 2022, at 6:30 pm at City Hall.