**CHESTER BEAUTIFICATION/TOURISM COMMISSION MINUTES**

November 17, 2022

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

Also attending: Jay Cooper, visitor

**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 Linda Schafer. Motion carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**  Balance on hand $25,918.25 non-tax income $32,024.50, Penny Machine $1,562.12, Stone Cottage $837.17. The report will be set aside for audit.

**PUBLIC PETITIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

 **Take Pride Award:** Robin Wahlman, 1932 Swanwick

 Brenda Gendron, 1216 Opdyke

 Winners of the annual $100.00 drawing are Mike and Janet Herschbach.

 The Take Pride Committee members encouraged everyone to “see something

 say something” if they came across a good candidate for the monthly award.

 **Planters:** Members of the Committee have filled the pots with greenery and

 decorative accent sticks. Brenda had a sample of the screen bows which were

 ordered on October 30, and will be in before Christmas on the River.

 **Riverboat/Tour Programming:** No report.

 **Tourism:** Brenda discussed additions and corrections to the brochure/map project.

 Many thanks to the Liberty Bell of the West Chapter of the Daughters of the American

 Revolution who chose the Stone Cottage for their annual service project. Chapter

 Members cleaned the inside of the Cottage and trimmed and weeded the outside.

 Brenda discussed her meeting with Rebecca Hunter who spoke on mail order houses

 at the Library. There will be a list generated in the future of known houses in the area.

Brenda met with Ann Keen, the historical consultant hired by the State of Missouri, to document the historical significance of the Chester Bridge. She visited the Chester Public Library land the County Museum and believes she has the information she needs to complete her project.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Riverfront Improvement:** Committee members refurbished the riverfront mural. JoAnn expressed her thanks to everyone for contributing their time to the Riverfront Improvement project.

 **State and Swanwick Green Space:** Painting continues.

 **Eclipse 2024:** Cynthia continues to search for a sign company to produce a banner.

**COMMISSION FUNCTION REPORTS:**

**Public Relations:** The City of Chester will have a quarter page ad in the Illinois South Visitor’s Guide for 2023 and in each of the 3 Southern Illinois Tourism Times publications. The special pricing package cost is $2145.

 **City Council Update:** No report.

 **Welcome Center:** Bob Lockhart reported 10 visitors.

 **Randolph County Tourism:** No report.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

 **Commission Openings:** Brenda introduced visitor Jay Cooper.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

 **Christmas on the River:** Beautification/Tourism will have an entry in the lighted

 parade. Brenda asked for volunteers to be at the High School on December 3 at

 5pm. The group will be throwing out rubber koozies. Brenda moved that 2 magnetic

signs be purchased for the side of the parade vehicle if we cannot locate signs from the past. Brenda will order the magnetic signs from the County Journal. Cynthia seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Donella moving.** Brenda announced that Donella is moving from the area. A replacement secretary is needed, and there will be another vacancy on the Commission.

 **Plant hanger fundraiser.** Melissa agreed to research this project.

**Evergreen Cemetery:** Brenda will be meeting with Sandra Starr to get information for a potentional activity next October.

**ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING:**

Linda Schafer made and Cynthia seconded a motion to adjourn.

 There will be no meeting in December per ordinance. The next meeting is Thursday, January 19th, 2023, at 6:30 pm at City Hall.