**CHESTER BEAUTIFICATION/TOURISM COMMISSION MINUTES**

April 20, 2023

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**  Carla Draves, Cynthia Lauder, Wendy Lochhead, Bob Lockhart, Jodi Moreno, Brenda Owen, Linda Rader, Linda Schafer, JoAnn Simmons, and Melissa Gross.

Also attending: Jay Cooper

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

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

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Linda Rader presented the Treasurer’s report.The balance on hand is $18,702.26. Funds include: Stone Cottage $847.17 and penny machine $1999.38. Mural donations total $2,775.00 to date. The report will be set aside for audit. Brenda explained the Beautification/Tourism financial report.

**PUBLIC PETITIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:** Brenda Owen introduced Jay Cooper. Mr. Cooper is interested in joining the commission.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Take Pride Award:** Will begin next month. May will feature the first 2 recipients. The committee asked for other volunteers to assist with this. Jodi Moreno and Cynthia Lauder will join the committee on a ride along. The committee reported that getting the phone numbers for the winners is difficult. It was suggested that perhaps City Hall could notify the winners by phone. The High School is beautiful right now with the blooming flowers.

**Planters:** Haven’t heard from Tony West as to whether he can continue with the planting due to other employment commitments. Linda Schafer presented an idea for the planters over the winter. We will need more Christmas Trees to be cut apart. This will be planned for this summer.

**Riverboat/Tour Programming:** There is no update from Patti Carter. American Cruise Line did not renew the contract with the City. She hasn’t heard from the American Queen and there is no schedule available to date.

**Tourism:** Brenda Owen reported that she had a beneficial phone meeting with Discover Downstate Illinois concerning the new Chester brochure and map. They are collecting pictures and Brenda will provide the narrative. Our ad in the next seasonal publication in June will include eclipse information. Brenda is trying to meet with Patti Carter about the special cancellation stamp for the2024 Eclipse. No new information from Patti about this.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Riverfront Improvement:** JoAnn Simmons reported that she has the planters ready to go, however due to the possible flooding, she is on hold with this project.

**State and Swanwick Green Space:** Ameren can install the dusk to dawn light free of charge. Cynthia is working on getting a bid in writing from Ameren for the City of Chester for the monthly cost. Cynthia reported that she is working with two different companies for pricing on a plaque to recognize donors.

**COMMISSION FUNCTION REPORTS:**

**Public Relations:** Bob reported that a couple from Austria recently visited Chester Welcome Center and were looking for Popeye memorabilia. The brochures with updates should be ready soon for distribution for the eclipse and the riverboats. Brenda also reported that she forwarded Kenny Wagner’s contact information to Discover Downstate Illinois since Blazing Colors printed the original brochure.

**City Council Update:** No report. We anticipate that a City Council person will be assigned to our commission.

**Welcome Center Update:** Bob Lockhart reported that he collected another $136.00 from the penny machine which brings the total to over $2,000.00.

**Randolph County Tourism:** No report.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Commission Openings:** Jay Cooper is being recommended for appointment to the Commission. Brenda will notify the Mayor’s office requesting the appointment.

**Plant Hanger fund raiser:** Melissa Gross reported that she has had no response from Mr. Inman since contacting him. She is looking for another source to purchase these.

**Evergreen Cemetery Comes Alive:** Brenda get the information packet to Mary Ann Heberlie and let her know Shane Wagner and Tom Gibbs would be a help. Jodi and Jay volunteered to possibly sell tickets for this event.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Any other business that may come before the commission:** Mary Ann indicated she would donate mulch for Tony to use in the planters.

**ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING:**

Linda Schafer moved to adjourn; JoAnn Simmons seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 P.M.

The next meeting is May 18, 6:30 PM, City Hall.