

Meeting Notes

Norwalk Hometown Pride
Community Meeting
April 9, 2018 at 5:00PM

Attendance: Judy Corcoran, Lorin Ditzler, Linda Echelmeyer, Katie Flinn, Mike Foss, Haylee Gehringer, David Graham, Debbie Marmon, Christie Peterson, Deanna Schulz, Chad Smith, Lucinda Sperry, Jeannie Sullivan, Adam Winn

Meeting called to order by Chair Schulz at 5:02 P.M.

- Schulz asked if any corrections need to be made on the minutes from March meeting
- Hearing and seeing none a motion was made by member Gehringer to approve the March minutes and was 2nd by member Corcoran. The motion passed.

City to Hold Funds

- Schulz explained that city has agreed to hold funds for us and it is to be kept track by treasurer Marmon

Norwalk Music Fest Project

- Schulz reported that City State Bank has agreed to pay for the stage and sound system donating \$1200
- Co-Vice Chair Smith stated if any reimbursement is needed can text treasurer Marmon
- Coach Ditzler stated that we are tax deductible for any donations, but not a 5013C.
- City Council did approve funds for the Norwalk Music Fest as long as we kept the event free and wanted to thank all committee members that was able to attend.
- \$3000 was approved from city and Mayor suggested we consider a "Jazz in July" type even in the future. Co-Vice Chair Foss stated that feels it is a good thing we have a lot of different genres of music.
- Site of the Music fest was changed to Warrior Run as Smith mentioned there was more room for parking and vendors. The focus should be on young families to bring their kids to play and see Norwalk.
- Smith asked what kind of fee should we charge the vendors? member Sperry answered that no less the \$25 no more than \$50. They keep all money and we will have no back fee.
- Marmon asked if there was enough room for all vendors planning to be there. The answer was there is room for 10 vendors.
- Event will be free this year, but may change for next year as interest event rises
- Member Sperry suggested we have the vendors plot out there locations for set up and that was agreed upon by Foss.
- Member Sullivan suggested that church maybe able to provide a jump house for the kids. A tent will be provided as well that will handle any shade issues.
- Sperry let us know she has set up an umbrella insurance policy for the event through the Chamber, using funds that were already designated for the old Jazz in July event, and there would be no new cost.

- There will be food and activities as well as about six hours of performing music that has been committed so far. Schulz mentioned if know of anyone that would want to perform to contact her as other members have other possibilities.
- Member Sullivan asked if there was any shuttle that would be provided and at this time there will not be, but golf carts could be used for some transportation.

Survey of Community Center

- A survey was done on the Norwalk Facebook page about what people would want in a community center. It was done three time using Survey Monkey over four day weekend and got over 300 responses. Many wanted space for sporting events; party room; a kitchen area; and a play area.
- It was noted that 3 people did not want any type of venue and was due to a cost issue, or it taking away resources from other places.
- Member Marmon was approached by Christ Our Savior that they would provide space in their church to use for meetings and as a venue
- Echelmeyer mentioned that there was going to be an expansion of the library and was there possibility of including a kids play area and a coffee shop like in West Des Moines. Corcoran mentioned that the WDM coffee shop was not a success.
- Smith mentioned that the Pizzeria will have a party room
- Foss suggested we have a conversation with the church staff about providing meeting space
- Member Corcoran suggested there maybe St. John's would be willing to let residents use space at the church
- Schulz suggested we make a master list of different places available for meeting places

Future of Group

- Foss suggested that we limit the involvement of the group and keep it at the current size. He stated that once a committee size becomes too large then it's hard to get any progress made
- If there are members of the public that want to get involved then we can direct them to a sub-committee or other volunteer opportunities
- We can create a Google doc for members to be able to view and see where there may be some volunteer spots and maybe create a gmail account to email specifically.
- Sperry mentioned there was a way to set up a way to communicate through email/sign-up email with texting through a "MailChimp Account"
- Coach Ditzler has created a volunteer inquiry form on the Warren County Hometown Pride website and is using constant contact to keep an e-mail list of volunteers. The committee can continue to use this, or create another system to maintain the volunteer list if they prefer.
- Foss made the motion to cap the size of the committee at its current level and it was 2nd by Smith.

Donations by the Committee

- Foss suggested as a committee we need to have 100% participation in donations so that when we ask for donations we can make others aware we are fully supported by the committee. He suggested each committee member donate \$25 or whatever they are able to give.

New Project Ideas

- Schulz gave an update on the project for the Cemetery landscaping

- We would like create a veteran's memorial and Foss and Flinn would like to work with the 132nd unit. Something like the Freedom Rock and Foss/Flinn will get it put together.
- Gehringer let us know that City State Bank has a list of 170 veterans in Norwalk if needed
- The question was asked if Norwalk was a "Home Base Iowa Community" and we are.

What to do with funds raised for Music Event

- Corcoran asked if there were any ideas for where to use the profits and where to send funds. She suggested it be sent to the music boosters.
- Sperry mentioned the cost of uniforms for the music program with Norwalk and how stretched they are
- Gehringer mentioned that whomever we designate we must be sure not offend anyone else who did not get any proceeds.
- Corcoran mentioned possibly doing scholarships and Foss mentioned in order to set that up it would need to be a specific percentage.
- Smith suggested we maybe contact their boosters and ask what is needed
- Several suggestions were made by members on possibilities of where to help out
- Foss mentioned if we are going to do this we need to focus on something specific
- Coach Ditzler spoke up and stated that her suggestion is to use any funds raised for future Hometown Pride projects.
- There was a question of if the Music Fest sub-committee can estimate how much we can make in donations.
- Smith mentioned we should wait and see how the Norwalk music fest goes and go from there and make sure we get people talking about the event.

Other Project Ideas

- The committee agreed that more discussion is needed about what other projects Hometown Pride will pursue in the future. Ditzler suggested that anyone with a project idea come to the next meeting ready to share their idea with the committee and see if there is enough support to move forward.
- Anyone who wants to share a project idea at the May meeting should contact Schulz to get on the agenda.
- The question was asked if there was any playground equipment that could be handicapped accessible. It may be a new Park on the Southwest part of town

Next Meeting

- Marmon asked about next meeting and wondered if possibility of making it 90 minutes.
- The next meeting will be on May 14 from 5-6:30 pm.

The motion to adjourn was made by Sperry at 6:10 and was 2nd by Marmon.