



## Minutes

Norwalk Hometown Pride  
Committee Meeting  
February 12, 2018 at 5:00PM

**Attendance:** Leigh Ann, David Graham, April B, Susan Winn, Adam Winn, Debbie Marmon, Jeannie Sullivan, Katie Flinn, Haylee Gehringer, Sandie R, Mike Foss, Christie Peterson, Lucinda Sperry, Chad Smith, Lorin Ditzler, Deanna Schulz

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM by Hometown Pride Chair Deanna Schulz.

Schulz had a basic overview of what Hometown Pride does and recapped the projects proposed from the last meeting.

Schulz called for the minutes from the last month meeting to be approved, the motion was made by Vice-Co-Chair Mike Foss and seconded by Lucinda Sperry. The motion passed.

### Committee Officers

Schulz thanked the volunteers for stepping up to be officers of the committee. The officer slate was announced as follows:

Chair: Deanna Schulz

Co-Vice-Chair: Mike Foss

Co-Vice-Chair: Chad Smith

Secretary: Adam Winn

Treasurer: Debbie Marmon

A motion was made by Schulz to approve the committee officers and was seconded by Foss. The motion passed.

### Group Discussion: Projects for 2018

Warren County Hometown Pride Community Coach Lorin Ditzler started off by reviewing the list of projects that were addressed at last meeting to possibly narrow down and focus on most important projects.

- Question was asked by one of the attendees how are the projects we approve funded?
  - Ditzler answered that some are through grants and others through fundraising. As far as the landscaping at North & Cherry, the City is applying for a grant and will match the funds needed.

Foss asked Schulz if a motion was needed to declare Norwalk Hometown Pride's official support for the landscaping project grant. He made the motion and was seconded by Sperry.

Schulz explained that the City has set aside \$30K for community projects this year, and that Hometown Pride may request some of that funding.

- Co-Chair Foss asked if we are to apply for funds directly to city council and it was answered that an action group would be formed as well.

Ditzler suggested we table the motion on the floor till we have a chance to go over all of projects first.

Schulz went over a project for a Welcome sign that the city is submitting for a \$100K grant, and a project to replace the Jazz in July that for the time being has disbanded. Would like to see it continue in Norwalk by using it as a fundraiser to raise funds for future projects.

- Question was asked if the whole Jazz is July was over with or just for Norwalk-it was the whole program
- A question was asked about if there was any way we could reach out to Hy-Vee to sponsor the event-Chair Schultz mentioned that the Fluor Hy-Vee had just joined the Chamber of Commerce for Norwalk so they would be a possible source to help with that.
- There was a question about a mobile liquor license and the feasibility about getting one-There are several different types and we will have to look into it more
- Question about how heavily attended the event was in the past and wanting to keep the event free by possibly charging vendors/possibly having a minimal fee to the public.
- Want to possibly have local musicians that are a part of the community and welcome any one able to perform in the local area.

Foss asked if a special task force could be formed for the musical event.

Co-vice-chair Smith asked if we could narrow the project list down to top 3 things we can do to eliminate what really isn't feasible. To get the city council involved in what we are willing to help with. A comment was made about involving businesses and the impact we could have with their cooperation.

Schulz stated one thing to keep in mind with a possible bike trail is that there will eventually be development North of the Lake and once that starts to take shape the committee could help in the way it is shaped.

Jeannie Sullivan brought up an idea about a community center and the possibility of the use of the old City Bank building once the new facility is completed as a discussion was had with someone at the bank. Haylee Gehringer, who works with the bank stated that at this point that is probably not an option.

Discussion on getting a community center for Norwalk that has been in the plans for years to be a place for seniors and others to go to for social events and other events. It was mentioned that there are options available with daycare in Colonial Circle

Ditzler asked what has been proposed in the past and what exactly do we mean when we talk about a community center? Who would run it? Answers from the group included: A place for kids to play; A place for older adults to socialize; General place for people to go to

Foss asked if a recreation center would be a part of the "New Downtown" or would to be separate.

Schulz mentioned that a company is interested in building a fitness/recreation center in Norwalk.

Resident brought up a similar project in Eastern Iowa where they used grants and were able to crate Ice rinks and a place for concerts in the summer

It was suggested our committee would be a voice in how a recreation center/community center is developed.

A suggestion was made to create a Facebook page to gather input and let others know what is going on, but that suggestion was tabled for the time being.

Ditzler mentioned to the committee if they wanted to know more about possibility of the bike trails then there was a presentation on February 20th with Warren County Hometown Pride at 4:00PM. There could also be cooperation with other communities such as Cumming.

Ditzler suggested to start to recap the meeting and wanted to recap the projects that were discussed throughout the meeting and decide what action to take on each.

1. Planting trees and landscaping in the Norwalk Cemetery
2. Be part of the development of the welcome sign
3. Music in the park
4. Bike trails
5. Community Center/Town Center

Trees - Foss made a motion that Norwalk Hometown Pride officially endorse the pursuit of the Cemetery tree grant. Sperry seconded. The motion was passed. We will wait for further action until we know if the City receives funding.

Welcome sign – the committee wants to be part of this when it moves forward. We would likely be involved in maintenance and landscaping. Foss suggested we can get the Rotary Club involved.

Schulz asked if anyone had experience in writing grants

- Foss mentioned that could speak with his wife and see if will be willing to help.

Music in the Park - Ditzler asked if there were any volunteers for a sub-committee for the music in the park project and Smith, Debbie Marmon, Sperry, David Graham & Gehringer offered their services.

Bike trails – The committee would like to learn more about plans for bike trails in the area. Schulz and Ditzler will research additional information and bring back to the committee.

Community Center – The committee could offer their help in gathering community feedback about what they want from a community center.

Gehringer motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Christie Peterson

Meeting was adjourned at 6:04 PM