

Friends of the Park Committee Minutes

The Friends of the Park Committee Meetings are conducted monthly meetings. Meetings are held in the Van Buren High Community Room at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Committee Members: Matt McCracken, Holly Metzger, Stephanie E. Berndt, Terri Mohr & Scott Oestrich

January Minutes

Present: Holly Metzger, Scott Oestrich, Matt McCracken, Terri Mohr

Chairman: Scott Oestrich

Secretary: Terri Mohr

175th Annv. Chairman: Matt McCracken

the date of October 11 2008 will be the Van Buren 175th annv. celebration. Matt will contact the Lion's club to verify and info them of the village's intent. We would like to have this work with the annual Apple butter festival that they put on. He will also check with the Allen Twp. Fire Dept. for their help with the Square area.

Mayor May asked the committee to come up with a case study/feasibility work up on the new community building. The gas and electric companies will need to be contacted to get the square foot usage estimates. Also it is undetermined at this point if the building will be all electric or gas and electric.

It was discussed as to why Ash Street will need to extend through the property north and end at the Hoadley property. This is for future development to the north and the possibility of the Post Office building in the area. The water line accessibility will need to come from the south side of St. Rt. 613 and be installed before 613 are repaved. The sewer line will come off Burrell St.

Scott will talk to Tim Brugeman about the idea of getting a second architectural estimate.

Future meetings will be on the 4th Thursday @6:00 p.m. at 206 E. Walnut St. VB, the next meeting is Feb.28th.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted, Terri L. Mohr, Secretary for the Comm.

February Minutes

February 28th 2008

Present: Holly Metzger, Scott Ostrich, Stephanie Brandt, Matt McCracken

Chairman Ostrich opened the meeting with the previous month's minutes. They were read and approved.

Scott invited Zoning inspector Mike Julien to our next meeting to talk to us about the zoning and the new building's requirements. He also talked to Tim Brugeman from the Hancock Parks office and he suggested 3 names for the design work: 1) Tim Bechtel, Peterman Associates 2) Mike Arnold of TFC and 3) Jerry Murray with RCM (Rooney) he did the schools new field house design. Tim also said that the Hancock Park district will help monetarily with what green areas we incorporate into the plan. But no building dollars. It was also suggested we get the HRPC's feedback on our project in the future.

Scott would like for us to take a field trip to look at the Marion Twp. Building, the Arlington Town hall and the A.G. Edwards office building on St. Rt. 12 sometime in April.

Matt talked with Garlock Bros. and they would be willing to meet and talk with us in future about the project.

The 175th annv. Festival is tentative for October 11th. Matt checked into the BINGO license through the Allen Twp. Fire dept., \$50 for a 4-5 event/year license. The liquor permit is for 4 days at \$40. He also talked to Bud Barringer from the VB Lion's club and he'll get back to Matt. The VB soccer tournament is that same weekend out at the Allen Twp. Sportplex, so we won't want to close 613 for the day. Matt will meet with the VBUM church in the future.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted, Terri L. Mohr, Secretary for the Comm.

March Minutes

Present: Scott Oestrich, Matt McCracken, Terri Mohr, Ed May, Mike Julien
Excused: Holly Metzger, Stephanie Berndt

This month's meeting was held at the Van Buren High School Community Room after the Van Buren Zoning Committee met. Zoning Inspector for the Village, Mike Julien talked to the committee about the rezoning of the Festival property from R-1 to S-1 (residential to Special) He also reminded the committee that we can't spend over \$25,000.00 per year per project without going to bid with prevailing wages being paid. He also talked about grants and finding matching funding for the project.

Ed May suggested that we talked to Lydia from the Hancock Regional Planning for grants and funding options. It was also suggested that we check with the Millstream Woodwork Shop and on Issue 1 monies.

It was suggested that this committee take a fieldtrip and view firsthand several building for sizing and ideas. The three's suggestions were: the new A.G. Edwards building on St. Route 12, Marion Twp Building and the Arlington Municipal building. Scott will contact Ed Solt of Arlington and Tom Phillips with A.G. Edwards. Terri will contact Max Stacy at the Marion Twp. Trustee.

Matt informed the committee that he is going to the Lion's Club meeting on Wed April 9th to discuss the date in October and if we can work together on this 175th celebration. He would like support committee members if they can attend.

The next meeting will be April 24th at the Van Buren High School Community room at 6 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted, Terri L. Mohr, Secretary for the Comm.

April Minutes

Present: Scott Oestrich, Matt McCracken, Terri Mohr

Excused: Holly Metzger, Stephanie Berndt

Visitors: Pastor Dan Metzger, Rosina Harris, Susan Barringer, Joyce Bressler (Applebutter Fest. Chairwoman)

Scott opened with introductions of the committee and explained the purpose of the Festival Committee.

Minutes were read with the following corrections: Ed Solt is the Arlington Mayor, and Ray VanGenin is the building contractor of the A.G. Edwards building.

We discussed the highlights from the Lions club meeting of April 9th. Matt's pro's for the October 11th date were: it is Homecoming weekend, alumni are in the area, and the soccer tournament is that weekend and of course the Apple butter Festival.

Mrs. Bressler's concerns were the weather, the location of Main St. closing, and the parking situation.

Matt stated that the Allen Twp. Trustee's will not let us use the fire hall; they stated that it is not handicap accessible. Matt said he will try to talk to Ed Huffman about this.

Dan Metzger stated that Van Buren United Methodist church is open for use and he liked the date in October for their family oriented ideas.

Open discussion was held with the following items raised:

- Hold festival on the first home football weekend in Sept.
- use the Presbyterians parking lot for parking with shuttles to Main St.
- block off Walnut St. from Main St. to Elm St.
- Hay wagons to shuttle
- Bus garage
- use N. Main St. of Square **not** SE/fire hall area
- close S. Main to Walnut St. but **not** Walnut crossroad
- parade
- BBQ or Hog Roast
- Apple butter Fest. is 10-4 p.m. with vendors in area from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- start time between noon and 2 p.m.
- food from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m.
- VBUM gospel music
- basketball hoops, kids games with move ability to indoors if need be
- sponsors for the festival
- ceremony with a King and Queen at the flag pole
- Style show @ 150th went well
- FIREWORKS

Meeting adjourned.

May Minutes

Present: Scott Oestreich, Stephanie Berndt, Holly Metzger, Ed May, Lydia Mihalik, Tim Bergeman, Byron Schroeder and Steve from Feller and Finch.

Scott opened the meeting by presenting our plan for the new proposed community center/park. Lydia, from the Hancock Regional Planning, followed up by indicating several funds that may be able to give towards our project including the Land and Water Conservation Fund which would be a large amount of money and the Nature Works fund which would be a small amount of money.

Byron and Steve, from Feller, Finch and Associates, estimated our cost for the building to be in the ballpark of \$125/sq. ft at the very minimum and the building (Phase 1 & 2) costing between \$600,000 and \$800,000. They also suggested to bid out the big projects and try and get the smaller pieces funded or donated from local businesses. But, they said now is the time to move on a project like this because interest rates are going up and this is only going to get more costly.

Tim Bergeman, from the Park District, is currently helping the school, state park and sportsplex in Van Buren so our challenge would be convincing the park district that funding a 4th park is worthwhile. He suggested doing a community needs survey to find out what the community wants and how to make this park different from the rest. Lydia said they can post a survey on their website if we come up with the questions to post or do a target mailing for the village to take on what they would like to see in the park and also maybe the kids at the school as well who are within our target age of 12-15 yrs. old.

Ed May suggested also looking beyond our community building as just a rental hall and maybe using it for some off site training or meetings for bigger companies in the area like whirlpool and ball metal.

The architects said they could come up with a conceptual quick sketch of what we are thinking to present at the festival this coming fall without too much cost into it.

Scott closed the meeting and hopes to get the committee together the beginning of June to come up with some questions for a survey in the near future.

June Minutes

Present: Matt McCracken, Ed May, Scott Oestreich, Terri Mohr

Excused: Holly Metzger, Stephanie Berndt

The quarterly meeting with the mayor was opened by Ed May. The community center survey was discussed, Ed gave positive comments with only a few additionally questions to be added. He thinks instead of infinite votes there should be only one vote per person on the survey. Also that based on the public's opinion we will know to go forward or halt this project. Scott will complete the survey, get them printed and put the survey on the Hancock County website page.

Mayor May would like the following items completed: the business case study for phase 1 or phase 1 & 2 together (including the average hall rental rates and the percent of occupancy based on area averages), also if the post office could be incorporated into the plans in the future.

In the future he would like to see us possibly partner with Allen Township Sports Soccer plex for the purchase of additional property around the existing 2 plus acres. Discussion followed and adjournment.

July Minutes

Festival Planning discussion only held.

August Minutes

Festival Planning discussion only held.

September Minutes

Present: Stephanie Berndt, Holly Metzger, Scott Oestrich, Terri L. Mohr
Excused: Matt McCracken

The festival came off with thunderstorms in the morning and clearing after the parade. The afternoon and evening weather was beautiful. The festival ended in the black with about \$900. The Beer Garden and bands seemed to be greatly enjoyed by all, especially the local element of the bands. It was discussed that in the future several things may be helpful: bring the fire dept. in earlier, and ask for a specific donation amount from businesses ex. Whirlpool.

October Minutes

Meeting was cancelled.

November Minutes

Meeting was cancelled.

December Minutes

Meeting was cancelled.

Submitted, Terri L. Mohr, Secretary for the Comm.