

Thursday
October 2, 2014
Minutes of Combined GALA and Bicentennial Committees Meeting

Meeting called to order by Don Haywood, Larry Gnau and Steve Cowley at 7:03 PM

PRESENT: Larry and Teresa Gnau, Brenda and Don Haywood, Harvey Teed, Carl and Judy Brehm, Sandy Barnum, Havilah Toland, Diane Olson, Terri Lee Kuznicki, Steve Cowley, Erin Moore, Pastor Ray Shaw, Don Walker, Herb Tinney, Dan LoFurno, Susan McCallum, Judy Tripp-Neu

ABSENT: Katherine Humphrey, Ron and Sharon Ingraham, Terri White, Fire Department rep, Legion rep.

GALA Report

Financial Report 2014 GALA prepared by Brenda Haywood and presented by Don Haywood

Loss of \$ 530.37 for 2014 GALA

Don says Brenda has reported to him that GALA has lost money for past five years; watch for notices at first of year for plans for GALA 2015

Don Haywood says GALA people have no problem helping with Bicentennial "but do not want to get stuck with all of the functions"

Should GALA continue until Bicentennial? One day event in 2015. No fireworks. People seemed to be content with that idea, but formal planning will begin next January.

A couple of people are willing to help but Steve suggests a one weekend event tied in with GALA 2016 for the Bicentennial, plus the revival which Pastor Ray believes should be for several days as it was in the early history; another event could be tied in to Turkey Dinner put on by Springwater UMC.

Steve Cowley and Don Haywood say the GALA is winding down; people are getting older and not enough people are interested in volunteering their time; some key members have died and loss of major fundraising opportunity at Chuck Winship's Sugarbush Hollow during the Maple Festival every March has left GALA with no funds to purchase fireworks

Susan McCallum says Springwater Center is willing to hold a one daylong retreat in 2015 and ask for donations to go towards Bicentennial; they would invite folks; Steve and Don suggested discussing fundraising at a later meeting.

Copies of suggested activities for a yearlong bicentennial celebration gleaned from suggestions made at previous meetings and put into a monthly format were prepared by Judy Tripp Neu and passed out to those in the audience.

Steve Cowley said it was a commendable effort, but Don Haywood said it would take at least "50 people to get the work done" for each event and he could not imagine that many people coming forward.

Havilah spoke and said he considers this effort "organized indecision." He believes we need a point person for each event – coordinated effort – we need a reason to celebrate – not just wishy-washy. He has written a historical "play" (vignette) that he would like to see re-enacted. All male characters. He also has props and ball frame he can resurrect for "Keep the Ball Going."

Havilah also pushed for Civil war re-enactment – last bugle call was made by Springwater resident for Civil War – could be promoted as such and people do follow the re-enactors from event-to-event;

Don asks why town can't handle committee finances; Steve said Town Board cannot spend taxpayer money for these types of things; we need a not-for-profit and town cannot set one up. There is a line on the budget for events and he requested extra funding, but that is divided between all community events.

Steve believes Post 905 Springwater American Legion will allow Bicentennial to operate with GALA; Judy suggested asking the Legion as a courtesysince they are audited and must show relevance to Legion work; Also Judy said, “we should have a separate account for our fundraising efforts so we can track expenses and not bankrupt GALA account,” but Don said funds could be co-mingled.. Steve suggested Judy ask Legion, but Don Haywood said he would “take care of it” by discussing it with Bill Morgan.

Can these things on calendar be completed – Town picnic with baseball game, and fireworks, Christmas, Car Show dance – much discussion followed with most people saying how tired they are and there are not enough people to assist with the projects. Judy volunteered to organize them and find willing and capable help. Don said Christmas event is fundraiser for Historical Society and we should not interfere with that. Much discussion followed (mostly negative) with commentary that “we’re tired – we are getting older – no reliable help, etc.”

Don felt by having picnic in July 2016 it would take away from GALA 2016 event especially if we had fireworks, and people would not come. Carl said because so many other towns have fireworks on that day, there would probably not be “adequate staff for Youngs Fireworks to accommodate our town’s event.”

Steve stated he is retiring next year and does not plan on being so busy.

Pastor Ray suggested theme for Bicentennial might be decided by an essay contest – most people believe it should just be by consensus; but people of all ages might write about “living in Springwater,” their youth or memories of living here.”

Judy Brehm stated she knows an English teacher living in this town and she might ask her if the school children can write essays.

Diane Olson said she has one-day art show in hand and can organize that event.

Terri Lee stated she will help wherever she is needed.

Carl suggested “Springwater Flowing into the Future” as a possible theme. People seemed to like that idea.

Discussion:

Don Walker says we need to identify who our target audience is – and then draw in these people. Fiddler’s Fair is successful because they have a niche and as Herb Tinney commented “people follow the musicians from place-to-place.”

Don Haywood says we must decide how far we want to go with events.

Steve told Judy to see if she could find help for some of the events listed on the suggested calendar she presented and report at next meeting.

Steve said meeting was productive and thanked people for coming out.

It was decided next meeting will be Thursday at Town Hall on December 4, 2014, at 7:00 PM.

GALA will meet in January with the date to be decided.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Tripp Neu
Secretary

