



Willard Community Improvement Corporation



Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2023
3:15 PM
Willard Council Chambers

Attending: Ricky Branham, Courtney Carnahan, Joseph Daniel, Bryson Hamons, Lori Huff, James Pomerich, Diana Speller, and CIC Administrator Carol Knapp.

Absent: Jack Kousma and Jacob McKenzie

President Joe Daniel called the meeting to order. James Pomerich led the meeting in prayer. A quorum was established. Joe thanked Diana for her efforts with the Chamber Annual Banquet. Being in one room during the event was good.

January 12, 2023 Annual Meeting & Regular Meeting Minutes Approval

- Board members were provided minutes prior to the meeting.
- Motion to approve by James, seconded by Ricky, and passed.

Financial Report

- Board members were provided with a Statement of Financial Position as of March 10, 2023. There has been no activity since the last meeting.
- Motion to accept financial report by James, seconded by Lori, and passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Vision Discussion – continued

Gateway Signage

- The City of Sandusky and East Palestine have impressive gateway signage.
- Bryson showed samples of brick from Beldon Brick Company. The brick that is being used for the clock tower is “Winewood Blend”. We might want to consider brick rather than stone because brick is timeless. If “Winewood Blend” brick were used it would provide some continuity within the community.
- Potential Gateway funding was discussed. Ricky asked if Capital Improvement funds could be used for the project. The City Council would need to approve. Bryson advised that past donations from the Moose Club go into the City’s decoration fund and may be used as seed money for the project with Council’s approval. Potential grants and private donations would be needed as well. It was mentioned that donors need to be acknowledged; however, a creative manner of recognition would be good. We need to be creative – perhaps miniature Gateway signs could be presented to each donor. It is important that we have a timeline for the project to encourage financial participation by the community.
- Bryson suggested that a Gateway Project Committee be formed. Diana, Bryson, Ricky, and Joe volunteered to be on the Committee. Carol was asked to “advertise” the Committee formation and seek individuals interested in serving on the Committee. The first committee meeting will be held in April.

Myrtle Avenue Demolition Properties (5, 7, 9 and 11) Update

- James advised that no bids were received when the Huron County Land Bank bid the project. The bid was for asbestos abatement and demolition. The Land Bank will rebid the project. The Land Bank plans to meet with two contractors next week that have renewed their asbestos abatement certification along with a third asbestos abatement contractor.
- Myrtle Avenue Demolition Properties will be removed from future CIC meeting agendas.

Veteran’s Memorial

- A Veteran’s Memorial Committee was formed at the January 2023 CIC meeting. Carol posted the meeting formation on the City’s CIC webpage. There has presently been no additional activity.
- Courtney advised that the School’s Community Honor Committee is very interested in this project and asked that Jason Ratliff, Cathy Weaver, and Tiffany Nuhfer be added to the committee. Ricky advised that Mercy Hospital is very interested in being involved with this project. He provided Carol with contact information. Carol will reach out to Jim Ludban to determine his interest in serving on the Committee along with other veterans that may want to be involved.
- Courtney noted that the memorial at the cemetery has been referred to as a War Memorial, not Veteran’s Memorial. It was previously located at the park in front of the pool. There is interest in determining the history of the War/Veteran Memorial. Carol advised that Barb Templeman at the Willard Library is very good at researching history. Carol will reach out to Barb and request assistance. The school group has plans for Attica’s Veteran’s Memorial along with pictures of Bloomville’s. New Washington’s Veteran’s Memorial is underway and may be a source of information as well.
- The location of the Veteran’s Memorial will be a decision of the Committee. Mercy Hospital previously offered the hospital campus. This would be a good location due to the existing parking. Downtown would be visible; however, parking could be an issue along with proper respect for the memorial.

- Funding for the Veteran's Memorial was discussed. Courtney advised that the School Community Honor Committee has raised funds. Bryson advised that the City has funds set aside for this project. Private donors and potential grants could provide additional funding.

ANEW (Active Neighbors Enhancing Willard) Update

- The ANEW Committee held a new membership drive meeting on February 22. Attendance was good and six new members joined the Committee.
- ANEW is presently working on Springfest which will be held in downtown Willard on May 20. Hours for the event have been extended from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM.
- The WBA (Willard Business Association) is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt and Egg Drop on April 1. WBA has asked if ANEW would be interested in helping with the event. ANEW agreed to assist.

Willard Dog Park Update

- The Willard Dog Park is an ANEW project. The Dog Park Committee met on January 17. A membership drive meeting was held on February 22 with good attendance and several new members joining the group. Ricky advised that Mercy Hospital is very interested in being involved with this project. He provided Carol with contact information.
- The project has received a Nature Works grant for \$12,688.00. Carol applied for a Huron County Community Foundation grant for \$10,000.00 with grant award notification expected in mid-April. Goods in the Woods generated \$2,500 towards the Dog Park. ANEW has dedicated Springfest proceeds to the Dog Park as well.

Willard Food Bank Update

- The Land Bank has relocated to the Christian Alliance Church. We are very blessed to have this organization in Willard.
- This subject will be removed from future CIC agendas.

NEW BUSINESS – None

OTHER

- Ricky complimented the City of Willard and CIC on the positive direction the City is heading in. He hears a lot of positive things about the City.
- Positive growth occurring in Willard in 2023 includes the Fisher Titus Medical Center Medical Office Building (groundbreaking held on March 16), Dunkin with groundbreaking planned this spring, and Dollar General.
- Diana attended a "Better Together" meeting with attendees getting to know each other and determining how they can work better together. The next meeting will be held in May in Willard. CIC Administrator Carol Knapp has been invited to attend the May meeting.
- Willard will be celebrating its sesquicentennial (150 years) next year and Diana wanted to discuss a celebration. Ricky advised that there is one (maybe two) time capsules buried in the park which should be part of the celebration. Bryson advised that the City will probably increase the Festival in the Park activities. Diana asked if a Committee should be formed to plan this celebration. It is uncertain what the Willard Area Historical Society has planned. A decision was not made if the Sesquicentennial Committee would be a committee of the CIC.
- Bryson advised that the Land Bank has demolished two houses in Willard – 615 Fink and 630 Pleasant. Ryan has some drone footage of the demolish.
- Eclipse – there is considerable hype about the upcoming eclipse. Not certain about the impact on Willard; however, the county is preparing with EMA being actively involved. The commissioners have stated that their office is not the point of contact for eclipse inquiries. Farmers wanting to convert their fields into campgrounds need to contact the health department. Kelly Lippus with the Norwalk Area Chamber of Commerce is in charge of an eclipse website with information.

Adjourn

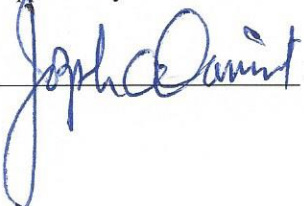
James made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Courtney. The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 PM.

The next meeting of the Willard Community Improvement Corporation will be held on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 3:15 PM in Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,


 Carol A. Knapp, EDFP
 Community Development Director/CIC Administrator

Approved by Board of Directors on 6/15/2023


 Joseph Daniel, President