



Willard Community Improvement Corporation



Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2023
3:15 PM
Willard Council Chambers

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

President Joe Daniel called the meeting to order at 3:17 PM.

June 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes Approval

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

Financial Report

- Board members were provided with a Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flow, and Statement of Activity Detail as of September 20, 2023.
- Carol noted that \$2,000 accounts receivable needs to be deleted. It is due to processing a pledge for the dog park.
- Motion to accept financial report by Courtney, seconded by Diana and passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Vision Discussion – continued

Gateway Signage – Bryson

- A design architect has been selected. City officials met with them today. They will be developing concepts for the gateway signage based on input provided by the committee including possibly using the same brick as the clock tower.
- They will provide ideas in approximately three weeks and a committee meeting will be scheduled.

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

- The four buildings are all down and cleanup should be completed in the next couple of weeks.
- The demolition contractor recycled and salvaged a lot of the materials including bricks, limestone/sandstone foundations, and metal. Wood was taken to the land fill.
- There was a Mail Pouch sign on the bakery building that had been hidden for years.
- Dirt for regrading the sites could possibly come from Peru Center Road.
- The land bank owns three of the properties (5, 7, 9) and 11 is owned by an individual.

Veterans Memorial – Bryson

- Site selection is the next step for this project.
- Bryson, James, and Carol met yesterday and reviewed all of the potential sites.
- A list of pros and cons for each site was developed.
- James added photos of each site.
- Some of the properties are privately owned.
- A list will be sent to committee members for their input on the pros and cons of each site.

ANEW (Active Neighbors Enhancing Willard

- GOODS IN THE WOODS – Carol
 - There are 44 registered craft vendors and 9 food vendors.
 - New events/activities include:
 - Tractor Show on Sunday
 - Chain Saw Demonstrations (includes donated carvings each day that can be sold)
 - Paul Bogner performance
 - Frozen Princesses Anna & Elsa
 - Scarecrow contest
 - Pumpkin baby contest
 - Balloon animals
 - T-Shirt sales
 - ANEW welcome station
 - Trick or Treat
 - Raffle
 - People mover
 - Returning events/activities include: car show, sheriff K-9 demonstrations, Kids Zone, train rides, Townline 26, church service, auction, petting zoo.
 - We are receiving additional vendor registrations and sponsorships each week.

- WILLARD DOG PARK PROJECT – Carol
 - Bryson advised that we need to get the fence ordered this year. We recently received new fence quotes.
 - \$46,652.90 – Total Project Cost
 - 41,142.75 – Committed Funds
 - \$5,510.15 – Additional Funding Needed
 - \$15,946.63 – Money in bank dedicated to dog park project.
 - Additional funding sources:
 - Sponsorships
 - Goods in the Woods 2023 proceeds
 - Trail of Terror 2023 proceeds

NEW BUSINESS

Sesquicentennial (150th) was identified as our next goal since the gateway signage project is well underway.

- It was suggested that the CIC take the lead in planning for the sesquicentennial. A specific person to head up the efforts was also suggested. Discussion included:
 - the time capsule(s) – where are they located and what’s in them?
 - What should be in a new time capsule?
 - Who was on the time capsule committee/group? Paul Cappelle, Don Shrader, Bill Armentrout, or Ray Ryman may be sources for information.
 - It would be fun to do a “What’s your Willard history?” survey on-line and as part of the program before the time capsule is opened and new one buried.
 - The 150th should be celebrated throughout the year and maybe some focus information on what happened in Willard over the years.
 - Downtown banners across the street with 150th is a must along with banners throughout town. Street light banners were suggested.
 - Do we want to have a celebration downtown?
 - Retro shirts featuring past businesses and logos was suggested along with the 44890 shirts that were previously discussed.
 - Bringing back Hoop Fest as a fundraiser was suggested; however, in the past, the event got “rough”.
 - The eclipse could be part of this effort as well.
 - A 150th Planning Committee will be formed. The first meeting is Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 3:15 PM in Council Chambers. The board needs to determine what groups or individuals to invite to this initial meeting.

Banners at Doster Plaza

- Jack owns the building where banners are displayed.
- A banner with a cost of \$475 and lasts two years.
- It would be nice to have different banners to display – perhaps seasonal, a 44890 banner, 150th anniversary, retro collage with new and old streetscapes.
- Ideas are needed.
- If we had more banners, they could be switched out more frequently and last longer.

OTHER

- Willard Chamber
 - Diana advised that the Willard chamber has a new website which includes forms and the ability to make payments online.
 - The Chamber office still does not have Internet.
- Willard Historical Society
 - Bryson advised that the Historical Society is having a ribbon cutting and open house at their new facility on October 6.
 - Courtney shared that students recently toured the Depot museum and were amazed at what was displayed there.
 - Jack has employee training every Friday. They recently met at the Historical Society. The training is for character building, learning more about the community, and encourage giving back.

Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made by Jake, seconded by Diana, and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.

A meeting to organize a Sesquicentennial Committee will be October 19, 2023 at 3:15 PM in Council Chambers.

The next meeting of the Willard Community Improvement Corporation will be held on Thursday, December 14, 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 DEC. 14, 2023



Joseph Daniel, President