

Ashland 4th of July Committee

Minutes

February 19, 2020

Present – Kendall Hughes, Deb Perdue, David Ruell, Ann Barney, Fran Wendelboe, Katrina Randlett, 6:30 meeting called to order, attendance taken by sign in sheet, pledge done.

Minutes – Minutes from the January 22nd meeting were reviewed, David made a motion to accept, 2nd by Anne all in favor.

Treasury Report –Katrina passed out copies of our rolling budget for 2019 and for 2020, and a copy of our budget. The town has not taken out the funds for the fireworks from our account but we have confirmed that Atlas did receive the payment. They have also not taken out the reimbursement for the Grand Marshall Plaque. These 2 items total - \$16,189.29. Crown Awards is a 2019 expense, and the fireworks is a 2020 expense. These items have been deducted from our rolling budget and the current balance is \$18,039.92. Kendall made a motion to accept the treasury report as presented, 2nd by Anne, all in favor.

Old Business

Logo – Deb showed a copy of the logo with the changes suggested at the last meeting, all in favor.

Vendor Agreements – the contracts that were used last year were given to Charlie and have been sent to be approved, legal said they may need rewriting, Charlie was going to try to push them to get them moving.

Food Vendors - We have vendors who are eagerly waiting to get signed contracts and may end up committing somewhere else if they do not get them soon. Ronald Chesley and Chappy's both have called Deb to see if they can be an additional fried dough booth. Chappy's would also like to bring a lemonade stand. Ideally we would like to have an actual fried dough truck, not a fair booth; we will have a discussion with Al about this.

Dj – need to figure out sound. Fran will check with someone on this. We could put Chris in different spots – center field, on the softball field, so that the trucks are not drowning out so much of the sound. We have been told that blue tooth speakers will only work for 40 feet from the set up, a long term plan may be to bury electric sound cables.

Vertical entertainment – good to go just need to get contract. We will ask for prices from him in advance this year so it can be advertised in our brochure.

Bands for parade – still need to confirm with 2 we have used for years. We can't find any high school bands that want to participate.

Touch a truck – this suggestion was brought but by Katrina, and the committee was in favor of working on this for after the parade – we will discuss further at our next meeting.

Parade - Kendall mentioned a float he knows is being worked on to celebrate the women's suffrage march since it is the 100 year anniversary. National Guard has been requested to send the color guard and a static display like last year, Civil Air Patrol and Sons of the American Revolution plan to attend. We have been reaching out to motorcycle groups and will continue to. We had discussed breaking prizes up into categories – bikers, walkers, horses and farm animals, domestic animals, motorcycles, antique cars, golf carts, floats. Deb will look into the cost of ribbons. We also briefly discussed a bike decorating station so that kids could decorate their bike and then ride in the parade. We had vests for the parkers – Deb will add event staff lettering onto the vests and they should also be used for the parade, it is hard to spot someone involved with so many around.

Advertising Letter – a list of businesses that got the letter last year was passed around, and members added businesses, and removed some that have changed names or gone out of business. If you have a business you want a letter to be sent to let Deb know.

Mary Ruell Award – Sue has written a draft, which is still to be finalized by Mark – Deb read this aloud to the committee.

Grand Marshall Award – Sue has written a draft which is still to be finalized by Ron – Deb read this aloud to the committee.

Buttons – a price list was presented for the buttons. In 2019 we had 500 buttons and ran out. Discussion was made to use the same company we used last year and order 750 buttons, Deb will order now.

Wristbands – The company we used last year was by far the best price, we will order this year with no year written on the bracelets – 500 bracelets, the company also shows a conversion kit to turn some into keychains – we will order a kit from amazon to do this ourselves and see how they come out, using the old bracelets from previous years.

New Business –

Privitization – Kendal spoke with a special events general liability agent from Nationwide, the same agent Fran had suggested and started working with. They can insure us for \$350-1500 for our 2 day event. The price is based on previous claims and where the fireworks are shot off from, since we have not had any recent previous claims and the fireworks will again be shot from the school she was leaning towards it being \$350. They are not able to issue a policy until 30 days before the event happens. If we are on our own and have to pay the fire and police cost – the fire cost is \$3000 and the police cost is approximately \$4000. The paperwork to file a 501c3 is relatively inexpensive just need to pay for the filing costs.

David had a list of questions for the selectman – 1. Are they suggesting that Primex says we should not do the 4th of July celebration anymore?

2. Is Primex recommending that all towns privatize their 4th of July celebration committees?

3. What are the specific reasons given by Primex for us to privatize

4. How much will the insurance premium be reduced if the 4th of July is privatized.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45