

## **Fourth of July Committee September Meeting Minutes**

### **9/19/24 6:30 PM Ashland Booster Club**

- Meeting called to order at 6:37 PM.
- Roll Call
  - Matty Leighton, Kendall Hughes, Charlie Bozello, David Ruell, Deb Hughes Perdue
- Minutes
  - Motion to accept – Matty
  - Second – Charlie
  - 3 in favor, 1 abstention, none opposed
- Schedule/Event Planning
  - Thursday, 7/3 – Food truck festival and fireworks
  - Friday, 7/4 – Pancake breakfast and parade
  - Saturday, 7/5 – 5K race and community kickball game
- Committee Updates
  - Fireworks – 2025 fireworks have been paid in full and the elementary school has committed to have us fire from their field.
  - Pole Banners – 2024 banners have been taken down.
  - Parade – Time to begin thinking about a theme and logo. We should choose something that will inspire float design. Suggestions for parade participation: 1) Explore revitalizing the town band; and, 2) Put the three national anthem singers on a float.
- Financials
  - All funds owed have been collected and all expenses have been paid.
  - We did not receive a donation from the church.
  - For 2024 we were \$729 over projected budget in revenue and \$2,338.40 below projected budget in expenses, and the event netted \$6,348.14 (about \$3K more than budgeted).
  - Bank balance as of 9/19 is \$38,881.73.

- The 2025 discount of \$10K we received from Pyrotecnico due to 2024 show issues has allowed us to save funds for the 2026 fireworks, which will mark the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.
- We need more funding to make 2026 a memorable event. Rather than trying to raise prices, we should identify new revenue-producing activities. Suggestions include a duck float, spaghetti dinner(s), zeppole (Italian fried dough dessert) sales, and sales of peppermint stick lemons (introduce at events prior to 4<sup>th</sup> of July to build awareness/demand).
- Budget discussion – Delete all lines relating to movie and cornhole tournament. Increase revenue lines for backstop banners, canisters/donations, and 5K registrations. Reduce revenue line for flagpole banners. Increase expense lines for wristbands (need to purchase) and tee shirts. Delete expense line for engraving and get quotes from Randlett for toilets and landscaping clean-up.
- Next meeting is on Thursday, 10/24 at 6:30 at the Booster Club, and November’s meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 11/21 at 6:30.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.