

Friends of Wabeno

10/8/2015

6 people in attendance

Chair Mary Beck called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes were read by Secretary Lynn LaRock. Motion by Kathy McHugh to accept them as read, second by Darlene Edelbeck, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report by Treasurer Darlene Edelbeck. \$700.00 in the checking account with one check outstanding. We received \$132.00 from the food stand that was held during the Chamber's Fall Festival. The Wabeno Development Group donated \$300.00 to the Friends of Wabeno. Mums for our planters were at a cost of \$200.00 from Flowers From the Heart and Flowers Galore at \$60.00.

WAM Fest brought in \$3600.00 Mary thought. When we get the monies from the WI Arts Board grant, Darlene will make a spread sheet out to see exactly where we stand on this event. The grant has been withheld due to the Arts Board getting a new computer program and they are trying to work the bugs out. We also found out that they had the wrong Tax ID number for FCEDP.

Phase 2: We have been working with the DNR concerning the trail in the fairgrounds. Pam LaBine of the county is working with us every step of the way. Pam brought in Tom Tiffany and Jeff Murser to look over the situation of the county and state not working together on this issue. Pam took a soil test which hit sand and gravel suggesting that it is a woodland terrain not wetlands. It was a previously filled in area so it is not natural. If the DNR considers it a wetland it may have to be pulled out which would be expensive and would have to cut trees down among other things. Also if the area is over 10,000 feet the DNR has the upper hand and this area is at 6,000 feet. Paul Ehlinger, Mary Beck and Tim Tucker wrote a letter to Tiffany and Murser with their concerns with the regulation jurisdiction. One department says one thing and the other department says another. We are trying to doing everything they want.

2016: Grants – no Lowe's grant, but we have the Remington grant and the Recreation Trail grant from the DNR. We need \$30,000 to complete the bathhouse, so we will not start that project this year. We may use the \$45,000 from the DNR to use on Phase 3 of the boardwalk. The plan is now a little smaller because of the terrain. It will finish the Range Line section with boardwalk and turn 350 yards and come up by the scale and eliminator. Tom Tucker has walked it off and it has a good grade. We considered using the \$60,000 in this way so the boardwalk project before completing plans for the Firefighters Grounds. We will apply for the AmeriCorps group again. Any monies left over will be put toward electrical for the RV park also boardwalk. The bathhouse and water and sewer system will need additional funding.

Wabeno Lumberjack Trail: We have received \$10,000 from the Forest Service to bring back this walking trail. Crandon now has a biking/walking trail for more of the quiet sports. Eugene Shawano of the Potawatomi thought they could design it, create a timeline and determine how much money would be needed to complete section by section including costs. One idea is to reach out to students who worked

on the original trail and see if they would like to volunteer to bring it back to life. (Ted Schlafke and John Gregg did countless hours on this trail).

Community Pride – Kathy McHugh reported that the comments were brought up that the Chamber's Fall Festival was not well attended and others thought it was well attended. Kathy donated the remainder of our hot dogs to the youth group so they are all gone. Dawn of the Chamber does not like to have more than one group making the same things to keep this diverse which is a good idea. Kathy suggested not doing this event and spending this time/money on something different. Not enough money for the effort.

Wabeno Business Alliance – Emy, Nicole, Backhaus Sportsman's Retreat, Raletta – Flowers Galore and Maggie Pichotta, Pichotta's Pub & Grub have started a new group to try to revive the business district. They are completely different than the chamber.

Downtown decorations were fabulous. Kathy reported they were all free. John and Linda Harter donated the cornstalks and hay bales. Sue Bessert, Kathy and Ralph McHugh and Joan Schertz put forth a lot of effort to decorate our town and they did a great job!

Winterfest: Peggy Rummel was in charge last year but because of Emy's opening will help but will not take the lead. Bake sale will be at the school. Edee, Linda McEwen, Karen McEwen and Darlene Edelbeck were involved last year. There's a fee for the booth but this is a money maker.

Winter Decorations: Kathy thought that Sue Bessert was in charge of the trees and decorations. The idea of artificial trees in two planters on the band shell with our solar lights on it. We had an issue with the lights on our little trees in the planters on the street because of the timers and sunlight. On the bandshell the trees will be in the sun almost all the time. Darlene will check out the lights. Mary said that she has a huge tree from her mother-in-law. Darlene stated she has Christmas tree lights she would like to donate.

Ambassador Project: Sue Bessert met with Dawn of the chamber already.

WAM – The chamber purchased our leftover beer and soda but we have not been paid as of yet. Mary is owed the money since she bought everything to set things up. Mary will ask Larry Rummel about this since he arranged everything.

Postcards/ notecards – idea for a money maker.

Cheri Collins contacted Mary Beck about grants for improving the interior of the museum. They would like to have a plan for the whole town for it can be presented to the town board.

Fundraiser – High school fundraising game with the Packers. Maria of the AmeriCorps father is best friends with the person that runs the Packer Foundation.

Next Meeting November 12

Motion by Darlene Edelbeck to adjourn at 8:29, second by Kathy McHugh, all in favor.