

# Friends of Wabeno

4/22/15

7:00 pm

9 people in attendance

**Minutes** were read by Secretary Lynn LaRock, Kathy McHugh made a motion to accept the minutes as read, second by Ralph McHugh, all in favor.

**Treasurer's Report** Treasurer Darlene Edelbeck was absent, report read by Mary Beck. The checking account has \$1605.07. Motion to accept the treasurer's report by Ralph McHugh, second by Kevin Podjaski, all in favor.

**Fundraising: What we do with our money now.** Aside from writing grants for the Boardwalk project, we raise money for downtown decorations and to pay for membership (\$250) in the FCEDP group. Last year we put up 9 planters downtown. One was damaged and needs to be replaced. Karen and Biz McEwen were able to purchase six additional planters last Fall at a discount. We decided we would have the 3 area flower shops do our planters to keep business in the community. We worked with Flowers Galore, Flowers from the Heart and Marilyn's Greenhouse. Each planter costs \$60 for the labor and flowers for each planter. This year we will add 2 additional planters for a total of 11 and a cost between \$600-700 for the flowers. Karen and Biz agreed to do the planters again this year. Kathy had an idea for the florists to take a certain amount off their total if they could put a little advertising in each planter – such as flowers designed by Flowers Galore. Kathy will contact Biz and Karen about this idea.

Deb Klingensmith asked about having a brat/burger fry for the Dual Sport activity on Friday night. Barb Charlton will ask Mark Charlton (President of the Dual Sport) if this would work since food is taken care of for Saturday night and breakfasts already. Deb said that the last time they did this fundraiser the Dual Sport was very appreciative for being there. The stand was located by the old rescue squad building by the fairgrounds and Scooter hooked them up for the electricity.

**Dream Building:** Mary asked the group what do we want to do with our funds if we are able to build up our bank account. Kathy thought of having a big entrance way into the park and a covered bridge. Other ideas: scholarship for a student, downtown decorations, mini façade grants, new Welcome to Wabeno sign, recognize a person for their community involvement or block award for who has the cleanest block or flowers on it.

**Fundraising Activities** June 5 – Dual Sport, July 10-13 Steam Up Days (ticket takers at the gate, pie stand, burger/brat stand at the craft show downtown), July 25 Kentuck Day (Pie stand last year we made \$850), August 1-2 Art & Music Fest, Sept 19 Art in the Square, Sept 27 Fall Craft Fest (Dawn asked us for food again), Dec 5 Winter Fest.

**Wabeno Art & Music Fest** Teams are needed 1. Marketing/Advertising (they hired Gwen for social media – flyers/radio talk show), Bracelets with WAM logo on it. 2. Musicians and Artists (Connie & Tim) 18-20 performers at the band shell, small stage and Legion Park Pavilion (Children focused) Artists are to send in three items and they are to have a demonstration, presentation or workshop at their stand. They already have four workshops (dance, mural rehab, children's songs, building rain sticks) 3. Event Logistics (Josh) AmeriCorps 4. Food & Beverage Booth (Friends of Wabeno). We hope to serve different kinds of food. Ideas: Cupcakes, fruit skewers, prime rib sandwiches, gluten free, signature beer or bottled water with WAM logo on it. (*Note: Tammy Collins kitchen is state certified to be making food*) 5. Evaluation – Evaluation forms will be circulated during fest with a perforated tear off with name and address for drawings and door prizes.

**Grocery Store Update** Meat market size is what was agreed upon in the past which would be a tourist attraction. There are grant opportunities which are 3:1 match \$500,000 up to WEDC. Mary contacted Joe Millan from Armstrong Creek about inspecting Peggy Renkas building (old Spark's store). It has a sound foundation, rubber roof, but needs to be gutted, the electrical, plumbing and heating all have to be upgraded. It would take \$200,000- 300,000 to renovate he estimated. Peggy would like to sell and is willing to negotiate. With a grant like this we could ask for \$100,000 but we would need to find \$200,000.

Next steps: 1. Planning Committee a) Create promotional flyer to come to Wabeno b) Willing to talk to potential grocers c) help write or research for grant applications.

The new bait shop plans on having bait, alcohol and check cashing services.

**Boardwalk & Trail Update** Trail and two boardwalks to be completed in May. Still are in need of 3-7 (24") diameter dried logs for benches. (Barb stated she may have some by her cabin – Mary will stop by her to see if right size) Butch Piontek may have some at the sawmill – Mary will check with him also. Families/organizations/ businesses may buy a memory bench and have a plaque placed on it. Volunteers are needed to promote the benches and stain them. Job Corps will finish the Phase 1 trail early this summer. The Grand Opening of Phase I will be during the Arts & Music Fest August 1-2. The funders like to come to grand openings to see where their money was spent (especially Christopher Reeves Foundation).

**Phase II** Many grants have been applied for/waiting to apply for them. We are 99.5% sure we have the LCR&D grant for trail materials. Tim Tucker will supervise the Americorp group if they

do come. We have received \$10,500 from the Remington Foundation. The estimate for the bathhouse is \$54,900 so far. (Includes roof, cement and plumbing), we are still waiting for the electrical estimate. The estimates came from Argonne Lumber, Smith Concrete and Maiden Lake Plumbing. Maintenance for the bathhouse and sites will be worked out at a later time. If the upgrades to Firefighters come through, it will bring additional rental fees to town which in turn brings people to our local businesses.

**Outdoor Museum** This is an idea to get informational/historical signs around town. There will be up to 20 variety signs made that would be stand up, look down, etc. For example: history of the river, trout, ferris wheel, logging, museum, etc. There will be a number of artists that will send in their ideas to be looked at for the grants. For example: the pony rides, sculptures, or the time in history that a whole block of Wabeno burned down. The funds would come from the **National Endowment of the Arts** If awarded – two years – first year is for planning and the other for the installation of the museum displays.

**Next Meeting** May 27, 7:00 p.m. Wabeno Town Hall

**Adjourn** 8:38 Kathy McHugh made a motion to adjourn, second by Ralph McHugh, all in favor

Respectfully submitted by Lynn LaRock