

Christmas Cruise Thru

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday May 19, 2015

The board of the Christmas Cruise Thru met at the offices of Alliance Tax Services Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 6:00PM.

Those in attendance were Charlie Wann, John Fifer, Dave Fine, Melissa Rodman, Denise Sutter, Vince Sutter, and Burton Rodman. Bobbi Sinn was absent for medical reasons.

Melissa noted 2 minor corrections to the April Minutes; Vince was excused not “executed” and “Thru” was misspelled as “True”. Dave moved to waive the reading of the minutes. John Fifer seconded and the motion carried.

Melissa read the financial report noting that our balance is unchanged at \$1222.64. Charlie moved to accept the report as read. Dave Fine seconded and the motion carried.

In old business:

Dave reported that after several attempts to contact Darrin Stevenson, he reached his wife who informed him that Darrin had passed away. Condolences were offered. It was suggested that at an appropriate time we should contact Mrs. Stevenson to discuss acquiring his display.

Denise reported that everything had been tore down and work has begun to sort and store items. In addition, the fairboard had tabled a decision to allow us to use the historical building for storage, so we need to investigate other options. Burton offered the use of his 24’x24’ garage. It was also proposed that we could look into a semi trailer for storage. Burton will contact Roger Moughler to see if he still has one for sale or would consider donating. Denise also mentioned she will contact someone. Dave will also contact John Brown to see if he would be able to move the trailer as needed.

Denise presented the Participation Agreement that she had drafted and it was approved as presented (pending spelling corrections). It was agreed that items left after April 1st this year would be returned upon request. However, in the future items left after April 1st would become the property of CCT.

Denise reported that the IRS has denied our application for 501(c)3 status and designated us as 501(c)4. The assigned agent has made his final ruling and there is no appeal available. The primary difference in this status is that donations are not tax deductible, however businesses may write off donations as a business expense.

Dave reported that he has not received a contract for the reindeer.

Denise reported that we do not have pictures of the large displays, but we could direct any potential sponsors to the company’s website.

We will offer sponsorships for Christmas Card Lane displays. The final location of these displays will be determined at a later date.

Dave and Denise presented a plan for managing traffic in the parking lot with barriers to create a single path by which cars enter the grounds. During the fire works display, this path would be changed to allow more cars in the parking lot.

Charlie receive a packet from American Fireworks detailing their proposed show. It would be \$6000 for a 30 minute show on December 13th with a rain date of December 14th. American Fireworks will be responsible for obtaining the appropriate permits. Fireworks will be launched from the infield and viewed from the parking lot beginning at 5:30PM. We have approval from the Fire Marshall, and the fire department association has indicated interest in sponsoring the display.

Dave, Charlie and/or John will contact the Defiance City Council and Defiance County Commissioners to solicit involvement and support.

The idea of a walk-through night has been tabled for this year. Anyone wishing to walk should be encouraged to take a carriage ride. As before walking beyond the parking and Multi-purpose building areas will not be allowed.

Burton had nothing to report on the website. Melissa reported that a business page has been created on Facebook with many people already "liking" the page. A link to this page has been added to the website.

The logo was discussed and approved.

Denise had nothing to report on insurance.

Marlene Middaugh contacted us with items to donate. Melissa will contact her. It was noted that we don't need any more trees.

John requested a copy of last year's flyer to include in the sponsor packets. Denise noted that photo books were available to share during fundraising visits.

Dave's radio contact, Rick Small may be able to do a remote. He would get advertisers to sponsor the remote.

The question was posed if we should invite the Boy Scouts back. It was agreed that we would investigate other options including Lou Jo's, Lisa from Peas and Carrots, Charlie's wife, the Mennonite Church or possibly providing the food ourselves and arranging people to work. We would need a 6 day commitment for anyone taking over. It was suggested that if the Boy Scouts still want to do it that we should have a different arrangement, like CCT counting the money and doing a split.

A work day was scheduled for June 3rd from 2:00-???. Denise explained that while we can't sort lights while they are frozen, they are "supple and soft" now that it's warm. Dave will bring a sample wood crate from work to see if they will work for storage.

Denise will report via email after the June 9th fairboard meeting whether we can use the Historical building. If approved, we will plan to move some shelves and items on June 10th. Denise will contact Jackie Hagen, Thelma, Kathy and Shannon to help.

The next meeting will be scheduled after the June 9th fairboard meeting.

Charlie moved to adjourn the meeting, Melissa seconded.