

CCT Board Meeting Jan 7, 2024, at Alliance Tax Services

Attendees: Ed Caryer, Angie Caryer, Deacon Cayer, James Wasson, Denise Sutter, Vince Sutter, Chris Warner, Cristina Schwiebert, Kari Wann, Kate Levi, David Schroeder. Scotty Ensman.

Ed called to order at 1:08.

A motion was made by Denise to abstain from reading the last minutes. This was seconded by Ed and the motion was carried.

Old Business:

Financials:

Advertising: - Banners were popular and they liked the location of the banners and most want to continue with this approach.

Radio budget was \$6k but within the budget.

Cards: \$600 from cards due to using material from existing stock (new material costs were reduced).

Fat Pig donated \$250 for using the facilities.

Light/display budget, spending on the light/display budget was over the budget by \$2k.

Purse bingo \$15,356 net profit. This was used to purchase displays and light strings.

Purse bingo, CCT start up money to purchase supplies was approved.

Concluded financial presentation. Angie moved to approve, Kari seconded, and the motion was carried.

Workers – The decision to hire workers to assist with tear down was approved and the same personnel enlisted for setup will be used for tear down.

Easter Egg Hunt; Denise motion \$1000 for bikes, Angie seconded the motion and motion carried.

HIX TV – Christopher presented information related to sponsoring HIX TV. After some discussion, it was concluded that this appears to align better with the advertising budget for 2024. This will be reviewed closer to next season when the advertising is organized.

New Business:

David, Deacon, Beth, Richard nominated as board members; Denise motioned, Christine seconded, and the motion was carried

Voting in officers:

Denise Nominated Mary as treasurer, Vince seconded, and the motion was carried.

Ed motion to retain Vince as secretary, Deacon second seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

VP: Ed Nominated James Wattson, Vince seconded, and the motion carried

President: Denise nominated Ed, Christina seconded, and the motion carried.

All members accepted the positions

Contract – The fair board will be meeting on Jan 9th to discuss the new contract. We will need to have a CCT meeting to read and discuss the terms when presented.

Committees –

Personnel: James is the lead for contractors and other board members will work with James to conduct work assignments.

Maintenance/repair: Vince will continue to oversee maintenance and repair of the lift and quads. The lift has experienced a series of failures requiring work by Wyse Equipment. The cost of repairs over the past two years has increased exponentially. This includes the cost reduction of performing some repairs by CCT personnel. This lift has been a very useful tool, but it is nearing the point of replacement. The future fund does not contain sufficient funds to replace the lift. The CCT cannot operate without a basic lift. It is necessary for efficiently placing lighting at heights and lifting large displays. A replacement will severely affect the savings in place.

Parking lot – Christopher volunteered to accept that position.

Calendar: Denise handed out copies of a sample 2023 schedule/calendar for review. Access to fairgrounds from Nov 20th to Dec 24th, what days are we planning to open the skating rink. After discussion Denise motioned open Nov 27 and close December 29th. Christopher seconded, and the motion was carried.

Purse bingo – Slated for Sept 7th

Survey: One question in the survey was should a charge be assigned to entry of the CCT? Of the replies 825 responded YES while only 8% responded NO. Donation suggestions ranged from \$5 to \$30. The average suggestion was approximately \$20.

The reason for moving to a fixed entry fee is due to the large percentage of visitors **that have refused to donate!** Even when directly notified that entry requires a donation, they have opted to drive past the entrance volunteer. Some speed up and endanger the safety of the entrance volunteer. This has been witnessed by the deputy sheriff that actually exit their vehicles, when working at the entrance. Based upon feedback from the survey, Denise motioned to institute a fee of \$15/CAR and \$30/bus. This was seconded by Deacon and the motion carried.

Visits per family – The survey indicated that 49% visit one time per season, 31% visit 2-3 times, 12.7% visit 3-5, and 7% visit 5 times or more. The minimum entrance fee will affect those that visit multiple times. However the rapidly increasing percentage of visitors that pay nothing is displacing those that do donate. It is unfortunate that the rising number of people taking advantage of the donation process are affecting everyone that does donate and our ability to cover the many expenses of operating a light

show of this magnitude and quality. The CCT has been included in the opt 15 drive through Christmas light shows in the state of Ohio and all of the others on the list require a greater entrance fee than is proposed (or they are funded directly by the local municipality). The CCT is not funded by the city of Hicksville.

Volunteers – It was proposed that volunteer, that help with setup and operation receive free admittance to the light show. n free

Scotty – may be moving to Fort Wayne and is resigning. If his family relocates locally, he said he would like to stay with the CCT.

Lights budget- A \$40k lights/display budget was motioned by Ed, seconded by deacon, and the motion was carried.

Bucket liners - The bucket liner sample was presented as part of the new display. They are suitable for the application and are far cheaper than other options researched. A motion to approve purchase of the liners was made by Mary, seconded by Christina, and the motion was carried.

Next meeting after contract is received form fair board. Thursday night meeting??

Ed ended the meeting at 3:40 pm