

**Village of Downers Grove  
Community Events Commission  
Committee Room  
Downers Grove Village Hall  
October 12, 2017**

**PRESENT: Mr. Dave Humphreys, Mr. Scott Jacaway, Ms. Andrea Knudsen, Ms. Linda Kunze, Mr. John Aguzino, Ms. Nicole Szydowski**

**STAFF: Ms. Mary Pratt, Mr. Daniel Carlsen**

**ABSENT: Ms. Susan Carroll, Mr. Mike Kubes**

**GUESTS: None**

Mr. Humphries called the meeting to order at 5:29 p.m. and noted who was in attendance.

**I. APPROVAL OF MAY 11, 2017 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Humphries made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Knudsen and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Pratt started with the review of Octoberfest. Octoberfest was located at Forest Lot North. Setup and cleanup worked well with additional language in the contract stating vendors must remove all items and clean up before 5:00am the next day.

On the request of a number of downtown business owners, Ms. Kunze asked if the event planners would consider moving the location of Octoberfest due to the parking and traffic impact that Octoberfest has on the downtown combined with the construction in the downtown area. A power cable was accidentally cut on Friday early afternoon by the construction company causing several businesses to close. Ms. Kunze stated that it was not a request, only a suggestion for the event planners. Ms. Pratt responded that she would work with the event planners to see if that would be a possibility and stated that certain projects in the downtown are slated to be completed before the next Octoberfest, reducing parking congestion.

Ms. Pratt then discussed the review of the Harvest Festival. Ms. Knudsen stated that she knew several people who participated in the race portion of the event, and they had nothing but good things to say about the event. Mr. Humphries stated that the First Congregational Church opened up their parking lot to improve traffic congestion and it worked well. Ms. Pratt stated that the event planners do a great job working with organizations surrounding the festival to minimize the impact. Mr. Jacaway stated that he heard feedback and had firsthand experience that the music at the festival was too loud and distorted. Past Harvest Festivals have been focused on the social aspect of the fest, and felt the music was drowning out close conversation. Ms. Pratt said she would relay this information to the Park District.

Ms. Kunze discussed the Fine Arts Festival. The Festival went well and the weather was beautiful. This year the artists were told to setup on Saturday morning instead of allowing them to check in on Friday night. Ms. Kunze stated that this new setup was a smooth process for everyone. Ms. Kunze also said that there has been a reduction in artists participating in this year's event due to competing art festivals around the area. She will be meeting with the marketing committee to see how to increase attendance. Mr. Humphries asked if changing the date is a possibility. Ms. Kunze stated that they are evaluating a different date to see if another weekend would be ideal. Ms. Knudsen suggested to have the participating artists encourage other artists to join the Festival, and to come up with ideas to attract new artists. Mr. Humphries suggested offering a discount or other bonus to attract new artists. Mr. Humphries also stated that this event is a real positive event for the Village and is rooted in Downers Grove tradition, and suggested to find solutions to these concerns as an agenda item in a future meeting.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Tree Lighting Ceremony**

Ms. Pratt stated that the Avery Coonley School will sponsor the event again. The school will also provide student singers for the ceremony. The DG North band will be there for the procession. The tree has not been selected yet, but there is a lot of people willing to volunteer their tree. There is some small changes for ornament collecting. The drop off location will be only at Public Works. If a group would like their ornament displayed at the library, they can bring one ornament to the library for display. Ms. Pratt asked the commission if any members would like to volunteer during the event.

##### **B. Meeting Schedule**

The Next scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, November 9th to discuss the Gingerbread Festival. There will also be a discussion on the Bonfield race. There was also discussion for moving the January meeting to the third week of the month to accommodate for schedules.

#### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

None

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Humphries made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.