

**COMMUNITY EVENTS COMISSION**

**Thursday July 8, 2021**

**5:30 P.M.**

**VILLAGE HALL-COMMITTEE ROOM**

**801 BURLINGTON AVENUE**

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL**

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**PRESENT: Nicole Szydowski, John Aguzino, Soraya Faber, Michael Puzen, DJ Fiore, Erin Venezia-Downtown Management, Lisa Rasin- Rotary, Elizabeth O'Toole and James Krueger-School District 58 and Alberto Torres-Moose Lodge**

**STAFF: Jennifer Rizzo, Emily Tompkins**

**ABSENT: Michael Kubes**

Ms. Nicole Szydowski called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**I. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 29, 2021 MINUTES**

Ms. Soraya Faber made a motion to approve the revised April 29, 2021 minutes. The motion was second by Ms. Nicole Szydowski and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Erin Venezia discussed the Downtown Sidewalk sale. The sale scheduled July 22-24 and has 24 businesses participating. Mr. Michael Puzen made a motion to approve the event and Mr. John Aguzino second the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Venezia continued with discussing the Fine Arts Festival. The festival will run September 11 and 12 and currently has 35 artists. The layout will be changing due to outdoor dining and the need for a fire lane. They will be looking for a location to bring in live entertainment. Ms. Faber asked if there is a cost to participate and Ms. Venezia replied the cost is \$225 for the weekend and participants must provide their own white tent. Ms. Jennifer Rizzo said the Village helps to make sure the tents are secure and also closes the road. Ms. Rizzo also said Public Works is working on the new layout. Ms. Faber asked about the possibility of being able to have alcoholic beverages and Ms. Venezia said it had been tried in the past but it was not well attended. Mr. Puzen asked how far south the event goes and Ms. Venezia replied in the past it went Curtiss to Maple, but it will depend on the number of artists and the new layout. Ms. Rizzo said Maple will most likely be closed for safety. Mr. Puzen made a motion to approve the event and Ms. Faber second the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Lisa Rasin, chair for Rotary Grove Fest, said there will be a Rotary Grove Fest this year after taking the last year off. The Fest will run August 19-22 and will have a beer garden, entertainment, rides and will be using downtown restaurants and retailers instead of outside businesses. Ms. Rizzo compared it to an expanded sidewalk sale. Ms. Rasin said the Fest will expand to include full services Thursday night instead of just a preview. Ms. Rasin mentioned the possibility of bringing in food trucks. Mr. Puzen asked if businesses not on Main Street would be included. Ms. Rasin said she would be talking to all downtown retailers and restaurants. Ms. Rizzo stated no liquor will be allowed outside the beer garden. Ms. Rasin

said she was hoping retailers would put merchandise out and also said there will be a church service Sunday on the main stage. Ms. Rizzo asked about the car show and Ms. Rasin stated the car show had just canceled. Ms. Faber asked about prices and Ms. Rasin replied they would be out on the new Rotary website soon. Ms. Szydlowski asked if the layout would change and Ms. Rizzo replied it would not. Ms. Rizzo stated they are still trying to work out where the food trucks will go. Ms. Venezia asked if road closure timing would be affected with the addition of Thursday night and Ms. Rizzo responded there would be no changes. Mr. DJ Fiore asked what local business feedback has been like in the past and Ms. Rizzo responded that they are supportive for the most part but it can be a mix. Ms. Venezia brought up the possibility of 15 minute parking on Curtiss and Ms. Rizzo said the Village is trying to find a spot for restaurant order pick-ups. Mr. Puzen made a motion to approve and Ms. Faber second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Rizzo said there will be a change in location for Oktoberfest due to construction on the Forest Lot North parking lot. It will be relocated to Lot B, adjacent to the train station. Burlington will be closed between Mochel and Washington for the event. Ms. Rizzo said this location will provide the necessary 15 foot fire lane.

Ms. Elizabeth O'Toole, chair of Oktoberfest which is run by the Education Foundation of Downers Grove District 58, began by saying Oktoberfest will be changing a bit this year. It will still be family focused as in the past, but will be more craft focused. Ms. O'Toole said that Friday and Saturday evening will be more adult focused with bands. Ms. O'Toole said the headlining band would be a ticketed event and will make potentially three times as much as in the past. Ms. O'Toole mentioned there will be no charge for kids this year. Mr. Puzen asked if residents had any issue with the change in location. Ms. O'Toole replied said she anticipates some phone calls. Ms. O'Toole said they do send letters to tenants ahead of time. Mr. Fiore asked how crowded the event has been in the past and Ms. O'Toole replied last year's attendance was 2000 and capacity is 2500. Mr. Puzen made a motion to approve and Mr. Fiore second the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **IV. STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Rizzo introduced Alberto Torres, Moose Lodge, who is discussing plans for a car show on July 24.

Mr. Torres would like to have a car show to drive business back to the Moose Lodge. The show would be in the back lot of the Moose Lodge with overflow possibly on the street or Lot A. After the car show there will be a band. Ms. Rizzo asked if there would be a charge for cars and Mr. Torres replied there would not be a charge but could be a donation. Ms. Venezia expressed concerns with the overflow cars as the car show falls during the Downtown Sidewalk Sale. Ms. Rizzo stated the Village will be allowing the use of Lot A for the show. Mr. Puzen asked about people potentially bringing alcohol outside and Mr. Torres stated they discussed having someone watch the door. Mr. Fiore said he felt the car show may drive more people to the Sidewalk Sale. Ms. Szydlowski asked if the event was for current Moose members or the public. Mr. Torres stated it is for both, they are thinking about opening the second floor of the Moose Lodge to allow non-members as only members are allowed on the first floor. Mr. Puzen made a motion to approve and Mr. John Aguzino second the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

None

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Puzen made the motion to adjourn, Ms. Faber second the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.