

COMMUNITY EVENTS COMMISSION

Thursday November 14, 2019

5:30 P.M.

VILLAGE HALL – COMMITTEE ROOM

801 BURLINGTON AVENUE

DOWNERS GROVE, IL

PRESENT: Michael Puzen, Mike Kubes, Scott Jacaway, Nicole Szdlowski, John Aguzino, Andrea Knudsen, and Erin Venezia-Downtown Management

STAFF: Jennifer Rizzo, Emily Tompkins

ABSENT: Soraya Faber

Ms. Andrea Knudsen called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 14, 2019 MINUTES

Mr. Michael Puzen made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was second by Mr. Mike Kubes and the minutes were approved unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

III. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Erin Venezia began by discussing the Gingerbread Fest. Ms. Venezia stated it would be the same as in the past and detailed the events. Ms. Jennifer Rizzo stated that she will need volunteers to hand out cookies. Mr. Scott Jacaway asked for an email detailing the time frame. Ms. Rizzo replied that she would send what she is sending Commissioner Hose as he is doing the ceremony because Mayor Barnett will be out of town. Mr. Puzen made a motion to approve the event and Mr. Jacaway seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Venezia continued by discussing the Ice Festival. Ms. Venezia detailed the ice carving schedule. Ms. Venezia said there may be a new addition of ice games this year. Ms. Venezia detailed what businesses typically participate. Mr. Puzen made a motion to approve and Mr. Jacaway seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Rizzo stated she will put out an itinerary for the Tree Lighting Ceremony and ask for volunteers for the cookies and apple juice. Ms. Rizzo stated there will be no Community Events Commission Meeting in December or January as permits will be coming in in January.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Kubes recapped events from over the summer. He stated how well the window painting went. Ms. Andrea Knudsen stated the Fourth of July parade went well. Ms. Rizzo stated she could use more volunteers. Ms. Rizzo stated October Fest went well but did have a noise

complaint. Mr. Kubes mentioned the Bonfield Race and Ms. Rizzo said it usually goes well and the route is exactly the same. She said they had about 6500 attend last year.

Mr. Jacaway asked Ms. Venezia if she was looking into any new events or scouting what other villages do. Ms. Venezia responded she is always looking but is not in a spot to add another big event due to staffing and not wanting to dilute the crowd. Mr. Jacaway asked who drives the agenda; is it the Village or does the commission have the capacity to offer ideas. He stated Downers Grove is an inclusive, social driven community and he hopes that philosophy would continue and evolve.

Ms. Rizzo stated she hasn't had any new bigger events but has had new races and the Park District is considering expanding the Tuesday night concert series.

Mr. Kubes asked if the Village can include suggestions for events on the Village webpage and also a listing of events. Ms. Venezia stated there is a list on the Downtown Management webpage.

Ms. Knudsen stated she feels the role of the Commission has changed. She feels now the commission members rubber stamp as opposed to decision making.

Ms. Rizzo stated that in the past there was a Community Events Department and budget.

Mr. Jacaway asked his fellow members what their expectations were of the committee meetings. He stated he expects more. He would like to hear new ideas.

Mr. Kubes stated he thinks using the Village website to gather public comment would before the next meeting would be a good idea.

Ms. Nicole Szdlowski stated she likes the idea of consolidation events onto a calendar keeping all avenues of communication available.

Mr. John Aguzino suggested creating a mission statement with objectives for 2020.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Knudsen made the motion to adjourn, Mr. Aguzino second the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.