CITY OF HOOPESTON

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

September 24, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Brad Hardcastle at 7:03pm along with 11 residents present. This included: Jeanette Andre’, Debbie Benjamin, Judy Doeden, Lourdine Florek, Kristy Kelnhofer, Carol Hicks, Valarie Hinkle, Marta Pierce, Julie Stump, Raymond Stump & Ellen Scharlach. Three additional people that expressed interest but could not make the meeting were: Paige Brown, Karen Eighner & Lisa Kinney.

Description of the Historic Preservation Commission was detailed and Hardcastle asked for 5 additional members that would be appointed by Mayor Crusinberry. Jeanette Andre’, Debbie Benjamin, Valarie Hinkle, Kristy Kelnhofer & Ellen Scharlach expressed interest in joining the committee along with Hardcastle and Marta Pierce. Names will be submitted to the Mayor. Hardcastle announced that all committees & the commission will need to publish agendas and minutes for their meetings through City Hall. He would also like to meet bi-monthly in the beginning. It was decided to meet on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month until further notice.

Other committees will need to be set also. A Fundraising Committee, a Logo Committee, a Marketing Committee including souvenirs, an Events Committee with sub committees and a Volunteer Committee. The Mayor would like to do a monthly recognition of groups, i.e. military, police, fire, teachers, veterans etc. This could be another committee or put in with the Event Committee. The mayor would also like to have a community church service on Sunday, June 27th at the McFerren Park Civic Center. Valarie Hinkle has agreed to talk with the Hoopeston Ministerial Association to start planning.

The Fundraising Committee is the next priority for the group with a goal of $30k - $50k. Hardcastle asked for someone to spearhead this committee. Several names were mentioned but no one in attendance expressed interest. Hardcastle will see if Mayor Crusinberry will personally contact the 3 names on the list to see if they would be interested in chairing this committee. Logo Committee will be chaired by Lourdine Florek. She will start the process of advertising the Logo contest along with guidelines of the contest. This will be for local talent and they will need to submit a hardcopy or an electronic copy to city hall before the deadline of December 1st, 2020. We would like to present the Logo & the winner of the contest at the Community Awards Ceremony in January. The Events Committee will need a Chair to oversee all events and then with individual events being organized by an individual. A list of event ideas was put together from discussion at previous meeting and distributed. Jeanette Andre’ also has several ideas, after research at the library by Tom Sweeney.

During open discussion, other ideas were suggested:

Carol Hicks was contacted by Larry Weatherford & his group. They would be willing to do a ceremony along with placing a headstone for a Civil War Veteran at Floral Hill.

Jeanette suggested individual days being named like they did for the centennial celebration. Examples included Youth Day or Agriculture Day. Judy Doeden said she has a personal contact to the Illiana Antique Tractor Club.

Fundraising suggestions by Kristy Kelnhofer, drive-thru steak dinner cooked by our Hometown Grill Master as soon as possible before weather changes.

A question was raised if there are any grant opportunities for this type of event. No one had heard of any grants but Brad suggested maybe the State Agricultural Department.

Adding a new tab to the City’s Website to house the information about the Sesquicentennial, Marta will contact Beamsco to get this started.

Since Republic Services has been the only business to commit to participating in the Sesquicentennial maybe we need to send a letter to local and area businesses requesting they participate in the event with funds or with employees.

Also suggested by several, that it might be necessary to assign events to the calendar and then contact people to see if they will be willing to be the lead on that event.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 13th at 7pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Marta Pierce