

Harrison Beautification Minutes

August 11, 2005

In Attendance: Denise DiBiasi, Helen Pesce, Lisa Sciliano, Christine Baldoni, Maria Gisondi, Camille Gladstone, Rose Marino, Joan Walsh, Ada Angarano, John Stubenvall, Jean Kelly and Catherine McShane.

Minutes from July 6, 2005 approved by all.

Gateway Signs: Drawings submitted to Mayor Malfitano were missing the slogan "It's Great to Live in Harrison". At the last executive session of the town board meeting it was voted that the slogan must be on gateway signs. The sign was changed to include and we are still waiting for approval. PEPA has agreed to pay for the Westchester Avenue/Purchase Street triangle gateway sign and the town has agreed to pay for 2 gateway signs. The locations will be one for downtown Harrison and one for West Harrison. Part of the money raised at the upcoming fundraiser will go towards completing the remaining gateway signs. Prices range from \$4000 to \$4800. It was asked if we would be willing to branch out to historical sites such as the old Town House or Amelia Earhardt sites. Can we do signs directly on these buildings? If the town budget has not been finalized yet, can this be added?

Certificates of Appreciation: The first certificates were handed out last week with much success. These certificates were presented to Sam Sokolski, Matt DiBiasi and Marcos Salaverria. Future certificates are to be given to Sam Navarra, Peter Navarra and Guy Morano, landscapers who have adopted plots since 2000 and continue to beautifully care for these areas. They will be awarded certificates at the next town board meeting.

Foundation/501C3: A recent call to the Internal Revenue Service uncovered the fact that the old foundation is still active. This is great news as we will be able to go forward raising funds as a foundation. We are currently waiting for a letter of renewal from the Internal Revenue Service. Foundation will raise money and committee will remain active in order to work with the town. Nominations for officers of Harrison Beautification Foundation will be held at the September meeting and elections will take place in October. Old foundation has approximately \$1700 left in bank account. This money will be used to kick start fundraising events as money will be needed up front.

Beautification Logo: It is agreed that we need to develop a logo, preferably in one color so that printing does not get too costly. Some ideas for logos are flowers, gazebo, trees etc. There are many websites available with many ideas. Please send suggestions to Denise Dibiasi at gdibi3@aol.com.

Journal: A journal is currently being developed to coincide with upcoming fundraiser. It was decided that this year's journal would be without a dedication. There will be a page inside the journal for the use of the mayor. Question was posed whether or not a

journal would be wise this year as it is a lot of work and can be very costly to print. It was decided to move forward with the journal as planned and see how the response is. Also at question was the price of the ads for the journal, it was decided to leave the prices as is. Some wonderful suggestions were presented in making changes to the actual form. This will be done by Christine Baldoni. All forms are currently waiting approval from mayors' office. It was noted that responses from the mayors' office are slow in coming. We are in crunch time and need answers immediately.

Cocktail Reception/Auction: This year's event will be held at the Westchester Country Club from 6:30 to 8:30. We are fundraising for remaining Gateway signs as well as hopefully a major improvement to the town that can be worked out with the mayors' office. It was discussed whether or not we should affiliate ourselves with another local charity such as Good Start Daycare Program on the ground of Saint Vincent hospital, Children's Hope Chest located in Purchase or the Harrison Youth Council. It was decided that for this year funds raised would be used strictly towards the beautification of Harrison.

Auction Items obtained thus far are: Sony camera, Boxed set of music books signed by Diane Warren, set of 3 signed cd's, Yankee tickets with basket, dinner for four at Gus's Seafood House and hot off the press a personalized gold album award to be picked from a list of artists. Thank you Rose Marino you have given us a terrific beginning. This is a great start but only a start, it is important that we all start soliciting donations as this will be the success of the evening.

Should we take out ads in local papers thanking companies for their support?

Invitation List for Fundraiser: It is important that everyone send in a list of potential guests as soon as possible. It is more influential when an invitation is sent with a personal note to friends and family. Currently only 5 people have sent their lists in and it is imperative that everyone does so. It was decided that committee people will pay for the postage for their invites- please don't let this scare you in sending in a substantial list. If you have any questions regarding this please contact Maria Gisondi at gisondis@aol.com.

We welcomed a new member to our group- his name is John Stubenvoll. John has agreed to help work on the invitations as well as the logo.

Camille Gladstone suggested that we buy a bench to be auctioned off at the event. This idea was met with great enthusiasm. We need more progress on bench committee in order to finalize this decision. Christine Baldoni will speak to public works and find out where they are currently getting their benches as well as cost associated with this.

While the mayor was unable to attend today's meeting the following was sent to be included in the minutes:

Congratulations on your new (or continued) status as a 501 C-3.

Yes, the e-mail was received and the forms you have put together for the cocktail reception are fine.

As far as using some of the funds raised for charitable purposes - Steve feels that when people donate money to an organization, they have the right to expect that their money

will be used for that organization and cause, not another.

Christmas decorations: 6 foot snowflakes are probably too large -- we'd like to purchase 4 1/2 foot ones only. Also, there is a feeling here that they need to be uniform. Once we get to the downtown "proper" area, perhaps we can purchase some wreaths since there are no longer the large telephone poles for the snowflakes.

Denise, in answer to your question regarding the gateway signs: we like the proposal very much and we'll call Nick regarding specifics.

Regards,

Celia

Moments before sending out the minutes- confirmation was received from Celia Curtis that they will not be doing wreaths but are able to make 4 1/2 foot snowflakes work on the black streetlamps. This is great as it will give all of Harrison unity.

Next meeting will be held on September 8th at 10:00 AM.

Motion to close meeting: Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted by:

Maria Gisondi