

Dunellen Downtown Committee

July 17, 2018

Attendees: Adam, Heidi, Jason, Ken, Ruben, Peg

Beautification

- Hanging Planters – Ken and Peg taking turns to water plans.
- PSE&G pole – Ruben reported the base of the PSE&G pole near Wrap It Up has holes in it and is exposed. What is status on this one?

Dunellen Train Station

- Peg sent pictures of Westbound station – peeling paint on ceiling and walls. Poor reflection on our town when entering. Ken followed up with NJ Transit for improvement and they immediately power washed and painted the entire downstairs. Huge improvement!

Street Light Update

- Ken advised street lights from phase 1, Washington through New Market Road plan are moving forward. Phase 2 bids for North Ave opened today. Phase 1 bids came in under original assumption, so we now may be able to extend lighting to Washington Park.

Art Color Update

- Ken reported that the tenants of the Art Color building have vacated; Demolition and remediation expected this summer. Heidi toured Art Color on behalf of Historical Society to see if we can salvage any historical relics from within the facility before demolition. Time capsule suggested? Heidi said there were no artifacts to speak of, and potentially take pieces of wooden floor.

HarvestFest

- Heidi has updated the website and Facebook. To date we have 2 food vendors and approximately 20 arts/craft vendors, 1 insurance company and 1 honey vendor.
- Heidi is working all marketing for HarvesFest. Heidi to follow up with Library for opening act on gazebo
- Peg to followed up with Martial arts, Rock Star Studios, and bands. All are interested. Horse/carriage requested \$1200 guarantee. Followed up on pony rides, which appear to be approximately \$4-500. Peg following up on details with owner.
- No stage this year – all performances in gazebo, committee needs to purchase tents with flaps to protect the art work and the apple pies. Ruben purchased tent for Committee, Ruben to send invoice to Bill Robins for reimbursement.
- Apple pie contest again this year – Heidi will promote
- Art contest again this year – Peg will work through school system. Theme will be Harvest.
- Pumpkin decoration contest again this year – Heidi may loan us scarecrows for park decoration

- Car show also scheduled the same day as the HarvestFest. Believe this will be at the RR station. May bring more people into town.
- Street Fair has been scheduled for one week before HarvestFest
- Banners – Jason suggested a banner promoting all four events, Street Fair, HarvestFest, Car Show and Haunted Trail.

Welcome Letter – Committee approved draft of Welcome letter. Suggested a link for details for new retailers with info such as sign application process, etc.,

DDMO logo – discussed DDMO using town logo for consistency. Ken to send black/white print version to committee.

DDMO banner – Heidi – is going to order a large banner, look at mock-up of banner promoting 4 events, and Glenn to modify old banners with new dates.

Retailer Vacancies – need update on vacancies.

- Less vacancies in town in total, only 1 remains in the Town Pharmacy complex. However, now appears a tattoo parlor will be in back of Town Pharmacy facing the tracks. Also Devines Pharmacy to relocate to Ray's.
- Café Nune store to make announcement regarding positive news – potential expansion?
- Antique store replacing gold store downtown.
- Trophy store moving from Middlesex to Stanley florist location.
- Appears “flatiron” building has been purchased or rented (Triangle garage). Sign is down, but await info. Appears garage took whole space.
- Inspire Art Gallery opening on North Washington next to Annex, Hal Vandermark, featuring multiple artists. Grand Opening completed.
- Rock Star signed 3 year lease at Annex – Grand Opening completed.
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Signage/window store fronts

- Committee discussed need for more enforcement of current sign ordinance. Ken reported that the sign ordinance is under discussion at the council meetings.

Dunellen Committee activities

- Activities of the various Dunellen committees are complimentary, so provided update on committee activities:
- DACC scheduled 3 concerts in Washington Park, Wednesday, July 25, Wednesday, August 1, and Saturday, September 15.
- Skylight at Twilight put our summer schedule – see Facebook - music in park, \$5/ticket. 4 concerts in the park and 2 other events.
- DACC Summer arts camp – registration in progress.
- DACC - Extending Washington Park venue to include additional theater groups, Circle, Re-Think, and expand breadth of performances as well as more music programs.
- DACC - Children summer art project – Completed painting of pipe bridge on Prospect.

- DACC - Mural – beta test mural on train tunnel – discussed last time tunnel was painted was 8 years ago, probably time to re-look at that project.
- DACC - Survey – Julie presented output to Mayor and council.
- Dunellen Playground committee - may be taking on the 5K run, Zombie theme this year, to end at Washington Park HarvestFest. Committee likes the idea, but requires additional vetting to understand logistics and committee participation.
- Together North Jersey Pilot Program – Dunellen won grant which provides expertise in development of transit hub.
- Dunellen Firefighters – planned two street fairs this year – one on Father’s Day and one the weekend before HarvestFest. No participation from Committee planned. Father’s Day street fair had decent attendance in the morning, low attendance in afternoon, due to Father’s day and weather.
- Rutgers SID study for downtown Dunellen will begin in fall semester pending the course will be filled with required number of students
- CBC flex space for artists in progress, DACC to make effort for July open house 3 artists in place.
- Sister City resolution for Dunellen and Val Tidone being written and presented to Council July 2. Delegation to travel to make presentation in Aug/Sept. Costs of trip will be on individuals from delegation if they choose to go. No cost to borough. Trip is pending Mayor and councils approval of Sister City status.

Next meeting to be 3rd Tuesday, August 21.