

River Roundtable
February 17, 2004
9 a.m.

Meeting location: Columbia Bowling Lanes, Hamilton, OH

In Attendance: Mark Fritsch, and Rob Sanders, Friends of the Great Miami; Angela Manuszak, Miami Conservancy District; Brian Bohl, Hamilton SWCD; Bill Phelps, City of Hamilton; Bob Lentz, Butler County Storm Water District; Adam Sackenheim, Butler County Environmental Services (see end for contact info).

Group Goal Statement: We will create a better understanding of the Great Miami River and treat the river corridor as a precious natural resource. (*source: January 7, 2003 minutes*)

Current Project:

Great Miami River Days: Friday – Sunday, September 10 – 12, 2004

LOGISTICS

City of Hamilton assistance

Bill Phelps, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City attended and stated that they can assist by providing the “show wagon” or stage, picnic tables, garbage barrels, and will make contacts with Jim Bokeno, the electrical engineer for the city to discuss our power needs and locations. Bill also showed the group where Neilan was blocked in the past for DamFest and where that group placed the stage and other key elements.

Parking

Dave Shanks from Miami U. called Angela to say that the campus director responded positively the idea of working with us. We will also need to acquire golf carts, vans, or some type of gator to help shuttle people from the parking area to the festival area.

Land use permit

Angela will check with MCD’s land management staff about acquiring a permit to hold the festival partially on the levee. She’ll also check with field staff about the potential of moving large debris (tree trunks) from the river site.

Security

The former REACT group that works through the police department may be able to cover all night security for us in exchange for a small cash donation (\$100?). All night security will be important for the stage and related equipment as well as the boats and RVs. We will work with Gail to solidify other security needs. If we need off-duty police officers, there will be an additional charge for that service. Rob will send a letter of request to the Sheriff and police department regarding assistance we will need.

Tent

City of Hamilton has a 30x50 tent (canopy and stakes) that we can use.

Sound System

We will need to rent a system. Murph is a good company to contact.

MANAGEMENT

Sponsorship

Rob has determined four main sponsorship levels:

\$20,000 title sponsors

\$10,000 (two needed) platinum sponsors

\$5,000

\$2500 event sponsors

below that will be called “patrons”

Rob will be approaching Fifth Third bank for the title sponsorship position. He’s had some positive preliminary conversations with them.

Booth rental

Rob has received quotes from Allene’s and booths will cost \$200 or \$250 (canopy and table). We will charge \$400 for vendors to obtain a booth, but still need to determine what to charge nonprofits and also boat and RV vendors. An amount based on space needed will be calculated. We also thought that anyone sponsoring at a \$500 rate or higher should receive booth space at no charge. We need to determine if we can charge extra for those needing electricity (Bill will check legality of that with Mike Samoviski). The group decided to place non-theme, non-food vendors on a waiting list and not sell space to them until after a certain date in order to maintain our educational goals.

Advertising

Rob is developing packets for potential sponsors and vendors. We \$1000 funding to have them printed in color. We also need to develop a logo and a web page. Rob is working with someone on FOGM’s web page that could perhaps develop something for River Days. It will be important to have an attractive T-shirt for the 10K as well, so design of the logo and the T-shirt should go together. Several printing companies were suggested as perhaps offering a good price: Quality Printing, American Printing (Tom Smith), Bethart Printing (did IceFest) and Queen City Printing. Angela will get a bid for logo and T-shirt design from her contact in Dayton.

Volunteer Recruitment

Rob expressed a need for a friendly, connected person to handle volunteer recruitment, coordination, and training. He has a weak possibility. Mark will ask Jerry for an idea about who might do that and Brian Prunty will see if Dave Carter is interested.

Clean up

Bill suggested that we contact Dr. Karwish of the Health Department (785-7090) and Judge Roseman about assistance with picking up trash and dealing with general clean up. He also suggested that we order some roll-offs from Rumpke to handle the trash.

Fiscal management

Rob expressed a need for a treasurer to help keep separate accounts and records.

FEATURES

10K race

At this point, we are planning to hold the running race on Saturday evening. We will need to obtain a parade permit through Gail Thornton to block streets for the race(s). This permit will also cover necessary security at the road blocks. Bill suggested that we coordinate with the soccer league to be sure Joyce Park won't be packed during that segment of the race. Bill volunteered to check the soccer schedule for tournaments. If there is a conflict, perhaps moving the race later in the evening would eliminate the problem.

Walking race

Bill suggested sending the walkers north, but keeping in mind that the High/Main Bridge will be under construction this summer and we may need to be flexible with the route.

Bass Tournament

We are looking to have ProBass sponsor a bass tourney on Friday the 10th. The actual weigh-in is the big public portion of the event. This will go on below the low dam, so we'll need to locate good boating access – perhaps at the west wastewater plant. We should contact Stuart Eversol, Athletic Director at Lakota HS for assistance and/or participation.

Canoeing/rafting

Angela made heard from Morgan's canoe livery. They encouraged us to use the 12-man rafts for safety with children and elderly. Angela will send them a proposal for a 10-mile trip south of the dam into Hamilton County – potential take out at the Southern Ohio Fish and Game Club as well as use of their canoes and equipment for fire and police crew competitive dashes above the dam.

Food

National Concessions will be flying into town this afternoon to meet with Rob.

Reportedly, they will allow competing food vendors that are local favorites.

Aquarium

ORSANCO has a large traveling aquarium that would make a nice addition to the event.

First Aid

Red Cross could have a booth. Rob has contacted Cincinnati Sports Medicine to have a presence during the races.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 2, 2004 at 9 a.m. at the Butler County Engineer's Office, 1921 Fairgrove Ave. (SR 4 next to Fairgrounds), Hamilton, OH

Contact Info from recent meeting participants

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