

River Days
October 4, 2004
8:40 a.m.

Meeting Location: Butler County Engineers Office

In Attendance: Bob Harris, City of Hamilton Parks and Rec; Jim Bokeno, City of Hamilton, Electric Dept.; Bob Lentz, Butler County Stormwater District; John Fabello, Vision 20/20; Dan Remley, Butler OSU Extension; Kevin Fall and Lynn White, Butler SWCD, Mark Fritsch, Friends of the Great Miami, Tim McLelland, Hamilton to New Baltimore Groundwater Consortium; Gail Thornton, City of Hamilton; Debbie Rulon, Hamilton Convention and Visitors Bureau, Brian Bohl, Hamilton County SWCD.

Old Business

Vision 20/20-

John Fabello- waiting for a yes from all members. The official response will be made at their next meeting on Oct 14. Bob Harris will attend this meeting in case there are any questions. The outlook is good, so far the response has been positive from the members of Vision 20/20.

Mission/Goal Statement-

Kevin Fall- Mission is not finalized yet. Will email to group on Wednesday/Thursday (Oct 6/7) when ready. Any suggestions or comments should be emailed back to the mission committee.

Benefactors-

Group agreed that Vision 20/20 and the Friends of the Great Miami will be the beneficiaries.

Festival Agenda-

Date- Bob Harris looked into the two dates discussed at last meeting (Sept 10 or 17, 2005) and September 10 looks best. This is also the same weekend that Damfest used to be held. This date also works for the Wakeboard event. September 10 was agreed upon by the group.

Times- Setup early on Saturday and have booths open at 10a.m. and run till 7 p.m. (allowing vendors daylight to close up their booth).

FOGM Activities -

Mark Fritsch spoke about three main events:

- 1- Canoe Float on Sunday at about 2p.m. for FOGM members.
- 2- Ohio Valley Civil War Association could come and do a re-enactment. They were here for July 4th. They decide in January for events for the upcoming year. Not sure if there is any cost. They could be involved in a ceremony on the Sunday for Sept 11, but the main interest is getting them their for the

Saturday. This does not fit with the focus of Riverday, but may be useful for drawing in more people.

- 3- Ceremony for 9/11 before the FOGM canoe float begins. Could be by Civil War group, or local fire and police.

Kevin Fall- If canoe float, etc. happen on the Sunday, we must make it clear to the booths and vendors that they are only to be there for the Saturday, as security will not be supplied on the Saturday night, and the tables, etc. will only be rented for the Saturday.

Committees

Entertainment

Bob Lentz- has contacted Devonna Banta (sp?) who will be sitting in on future meetings.

Planning a four prong approach:

- 1- Large stage for big name band. May be able to get Patsy's Decline for \$800. They will do a four hour set for this fee. They book six months in advance. Could also have West Chester Symphony who are interested.
- 2- Smaller stage for local performers such as West Chester Choral Group and the Dance Academy.
- 3- Crowd entertainment such as a clown and juggler to walk through the crowd. Tim McLelland has a contact for both of these.
- 4- Contact local radio station for their "Oversize boom box" to simulcast at the event. This may also help with publicity.

Hamilton has a show wagon which is a traveling stage. We would need a second stage. A hay wagon was suggested. Use bales as seating and wagon as small stage. Middletown may also have a show wagon.

Food Booth

Adam Sackenheim sent an email report

Carla's husband Larry gave some recommendations. (Larry was the food chair for the 4th of July event).

- 1- Mailer ad to local food merchants in Spring and then again a month of two before the event.
- 2- Go for about 8 vendors. If there are too many, their business may suffer from lack of customers and they may not want to come back again. Gail Thornton raised the point that this may not be enough vendors as too few vendors means long lines and possibly running out of food.
- 3- Larry recommended several local vendors he has worked with for July 4 in the past.
- 4- He also recommended that we charge for booth rental. Last year \$500 was suggested. This appears to be too much as we are cutting back to a one day event. The charge will be finalized at a later date when our costs are known.

Debbie Rulon suggested asking Jim Bell about the vendors at Taste of Village Green.

Tim McLelland suggested reminding Adam to contact the Health Department.

River Activities

Bob Harris- Contacted Little G from No-Wake. They will set-up and practice on Friday and hold their event on Saturday. They are definitely coming. Their event last from about 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Heart Walk is confirmed

FOGM Canoe Float looks definite

Marketing

Bob Harris is willing to send a letter to different entities for fund raising etc. Email him with contacts to send letters to.

Last year Channel 19 was going to be involved. Will they again? Should we encourage Dayton media to become involve also?

Education

Need to reserve date with Alleen Rentals or another rental company.

Everyone is to bring a list of possible booths to the next meeting.

There will be both educational and games booths.

Mike Fritsch- If there is space at the back of the site for businesses like Tom Raper's RVs we could charge them more than the regular booth fee and invite them along. Find out who is at the Sportsman's Show in January.

Sponsor

Bob Harris will ask Angela Munuszak if she will do this.

Logistics

Tim McLelland agreed to be logistics chair

10K

Brian Bohl decided not to hold the 10K this year due to a conflict with the Heart Walk. He did not want the race to compete with the walk as they often have many of the same participants. He feels that his time would be best spent helping out elsewhere for the event such as the Canoe Float with FOGM and with education. The race could be placed back on the agenda for a future year.

Finance

Bob Harris received an email from Bruce Koehler (FOGM) asking about the duties of Matt who is going to be the fiscal agent for the event, and about any compensation for his time working on this.

The group agreed that this service should be a donation from FOGM. All of the other organizations are donating their services to create this event. It was suggested that if there was no money raised from the event to give to the beneficiaries (including FOGM), a small donation may be made to FOGM at this point.

Bruce Koehler would like to know how the money will be divided between the two beneficiaries, though that is not known at this point.

Tim McLelland pointed out that the focus for this first year is not in fundraising but in attendance.

Mark Fritsch inquired about how we plan to raise money at the event if booth space is only going to be charged a small fee. He mentioned Damfest charging for parking. Bob Harris mentioned the possibility of a small amusement company bringing in rides. If we provide space, we receive 25% of takings in some cases. He will look into this. Bob Harris requested an update at the next meeting from each committee.

New Business

Sponsors- Debbie Rulon asked what reason are we giving to sponsors when looking for funding.

Each committee must start to bring together a budget for their expected expenses.

Each organization look into how much the can afford to donate to the event.

Logo

Bob Lentz brought up the topic of a logo. He had drawn two and passed them around for comment.

Mark Fritsch noted that he knows a designer that may be able to work with us.

Next Meeting- 9 a.m., November 1, 2004 at the BCEO.

Please note change of time