

River Days Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2004

9:00 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; Shannon Gillespie, Butler County Environmental Services; Mark Fritsch, Friends of the Great Miami; Angela Manuszak, Miami Conservancy District

Corrections to the minutes: River Days will be held on September 10, 2005 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., NOT the 25th as reported in minutes from the November 1 meeting. Also, Jim Bokeno was not in attendance at the November meeting as reported.

Activities planned:

Saturday the 10 th :	9 am to 7 pm	Wake Board Competition (No Wake Marina)
	9 am to ??	Heart Walk (American Heart Association)
	1 pm	9/11 Ceremony
Sunday the 11 th :	1:30 pm	Canoe float (Friends of the Great Miami)

Chair of planning group:

Bob Harris requested that someone step up and help co-chair the River Days event to help take some of the pressure off of him. He is willing to: 1) Write the agenda, 2) Run the meetings, 3) Help find sponsor dollars in Hamilton, 4) Co-chair the event. However, if one person could step up to help principally be the sponsor recruiter out in Butler County and neighboring counties, that would help tremendously. The group will discuss this need again at the January meeting. Mark Fritsch suggested that we could also find a lead sponsor recruiter for each county. He suggested that Brian Bohl could be the lead in Hamilton County, and others could be found from Butler, Warren, and Montgomery. This should be someone familiar with area businesses and funding sources.

Sponsorship:

The City of Hamilton and the Miami Conservancy District have both tentatively committed \$500, while the Butler County Storm Water District tentatively committed \$2000 for River Days 2005. Bob plans to contact the Hamilton Community Foundation for sponsorship also.

The contributor letter will be finalized at the next meeting. Bob Lentz suggested the following sponsor levels, which will also be finalized at the January meeting:

Watershed Sponsor (\$5K and up)
River Sponsor (\$3K - \$4999)
Stream Sponsor (\$1000 – 2999)
Creek Sponsor (\$500 – 999)
Rubber Duck Sponsor (up to \$499)

Food

Mark Fritsch had invited a representative of the Ross Lion's Club to the meeting to discuss the Hog & Kraut dinner idea. Dave Brewer is his contact. This event is very

popular at the Eaton Pork Festival. Pre-sale of tickets is recommended. Angela recommended keeping the committee's role simple by selling space to the Lion's Club for the dinner.

Entertainment

Bob Lentz has several bands in mind, including the West Chester Orchestra. Mark suggested The Mount Community Concert Band, a 60-piece band who would probably donate their time to do a one-hour show. They may also appreciate a small dollar donation. We would need to assess the needed space for the band and the orchestra, since both would need more stage room than we currently have available.

There is a firm commitment by Pioneer Village to have an encampment. There may also be a civil war encampment.

Scouts as volunteers and participants

Friends of the Great Miami received favorable response to a presentation to the Boy Scouts. They are proposing to do a camp-out Friday and Saturday night along the river, consisting of approximately 150 two-man tents. The scouts would also be volunteering to help with parking, set-up, etc. and would probably have an exhibit.

Education

Lynn White was not present, but sent the following report: 1- She has pricing info from Academy Rentals and from the Alleen Company for tables, chairs etc.; 2- She has a booth application form that is waiting on the logo to be complete; 3- She still would like names and addresses of folks that may be interested in having a booth. Debbie has provided the Damfest booth participant info.

Fiscal agency

At the January meeting, we will determine the appropriate fiscal agent to work with. We have currently two options for fiscal agent, though Bob H. thought it would be wise to have one of the benefactors acting as fiscal agent. Hamilton Community Foundation and Friends of the Great Miami are both possible fiscal agents. Bruce Koehler, president of Friends submitted the following details about what they would like to see regarding terms of being the fiscal agent:

Matt Gutzwiller (Friends' Treasurer and a CPA) is willing to serve as fiscal agent with the understanding that:

- any compensation paid to him will be turned over to Friends of the Great Miami
- his compensation will be \$30 an hour (His employer charges \$160 an hour for his services.)
- his compensation will be capped at \$1,000, even if there is still work to be done by the fiscal agent

Bob H. will request a similar terms proposal from the Hamilton Community Foundation so that we can compare then at the January meeting.

New Business

Bob Harris has contacted Happy H, a small carnival ride provider. They have inflatables, smaller rides and their own generator. We would just need to provide them with green space. We would get 25% of revenues. Bob is willing to entertain the idea of a vendor with larger rides if one can be found. Angela has made some contacts on that front and

was told that there are several carnivals in this corner of the state that weekend. Mark also suggested Kissel Brothers of Miami Town.

Meetings

Bob H. suggested that we plan to start meeting twice monthly in January or February. Bob L. recommended that each committee chair do some work recruiting members to his/her committee so they can spend some time on the details outside of the full-group meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, January 10, 2005 at 9 a.m. at the Butler County Engineer's Office.