

**HIGHLAND MAIN STREET MEETING**  
**Highland Town Hall- Highland, Indiana 46322**  
**February 1, 2018 MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

At 6:37 PM, the Highland Main Street (HMS) meeting was called to order by President Dawn Diamantopoulos at Highland Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road in Highland, Indiana.

**Roll Call:**

The following were present: Board Members Dawn Diamantopoulos, Lola McKay, Mary Wells, Julie Larson, Doug Van Ramshorst and Redevelopment Assistant Lance Ryskamp. Board Members Marie Russo, Mario DeGeorge and Darlene Barron were absent.

**Minutes:**

Julie Larson made a motion, seconded by Doug Van Ramshorst, to approve minutes from the January 4, 2018. The motion passed on a voice vote 5-0.

**Festival of the Trail**

Dawn reported that it was confirmed that Zandstra's Greenhouse has agreed to hold a Farmer's Market at this year's Festival of the Trail, as well as serve as an alternate indoor location in the event of bad weather. Lance provided a draft resolution, establishing artist's booth fees, for the Board's review. Seeing no changes, he said that he would present the resolution for the Redevelopment Commission's review and adoption at their February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Highland Rookery**

No report.

**Pop-Up Gallery**

Lance suggested the possibility of holding a pop-up gallery event at the former Lincoln's on Highway. Dawn said she would look at that and other sites suggested at the January meeting for consideration.

**Coupon Program**

No report.

**Car Cruise**

Lance said he reached out to Thunder Road to see if June 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> were open were available and was told by Thunder Road that due to a decrease in personnel and the fact that cars are brought in one at a time and guided by event personnel, Thunder Road could not commit without a commitment of at least 6 volunteers to help park cars. Currently, Lance said that there has not been a firm commitment of Main Street volunteers to meet this requirement. Past members of the Car Cruise committee have not, to date, said they would participate, and in discussion, some Board members have a schedule conflict on the tentative dates. Lance said he wanted to be able

to contract with Thunder Road in time for a resolution to be presented to the Redevelopment Commission by their February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Additional discussion ensued, which was inconclusive as to how to proceed. Lance said he would try and reach out to past participants, or seek out other solutions, in an attempt to secure the necessary volunteers and would report back to the Board.

#### **Façade Improvement Grant**

No report.

#### **Cash Mobs**

Lance confirmed that the first 2018 cash mob of the year would be a joint event with The Annex and YaYa Sisters stores on Highway and 4<sup>th</sup>, on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, starting at 10:00 am.

#### **Municipal Parking Lot**

No report.

#### **Market Musicians**

Lance reported that after discussions between the Park Department, the Redevelopment Director, Dawn and himself, it was agreed that the Park Department, rather than Main Street, would fund the warm-up musical acts for this year's Midweek Market at Main Square.

#### **Poet Laureate**

Julie reported that she had finished the draft call for the selection of a new Poet Laureate, for review/ revision. There was some discussion as to the length and number of terms, and possibly adding additional expectations of the position, including the idea of having the Poet Laureate being made a board member of Highland Main Street.

Julie Larson made a motion, seconded by Doug Van Ramshorst, to change the Highland Poet Laureate position from a one-year to a two-year position, and that past and present Poet Laureates who had one-year terms would be eligible to apply for and serve an additional year, if re-appointed. The motion passed on a voice vote 5-0.

#### **Sculpture and Art Tour of Highland**

Dawn reported that Randy Simko had offered to sell the existing sculpture on Highway Avenue to the town or a nonprofit such as the Town Theatre Board or Highland Community Foundation for \$500. She also said that the cycle for funding through the Town Theatre Board, had passed until later in the Spring. Lance said that the Highland Community Foundation has begun a new grant application cycle. Dawn asked whether the town would accept an indefinite display of the sculpture, if a nonprofit were to purchase. Lance said that would ultimately be a decision that the Town Council or the Redevelopment Commission have to make. Dawn said that decision should be made before any grant application is made. Lance also said NIPSCO would also have to grant permission to keep the sculpture on their property prior to their permit expiring at the beginning of May.

#### **Discussion of Possible New 2018 Event**

Lance reviewed his recent communications with the Park and Recreation Department about a new event, possibly to be held in the summer in Main Square. He said that there are currently some available dates in August open. He said he had received information about the caterer who worked the beer garden at 2017 Main Square events, and

potential fees to be paid to the Park Department for set-up, tear-down, and garbage collection. He said that beyond those services, there would be no Park personnel participating, so Main Street would either have to supply the manpower, either together or in partnership with other groups. Various ideas to consider were music-related events, such as a "Battle of the Bands" format, or something such as a student film festival. Lance recommended that everyone think through some ideas and come to the March meeting prepared to either put together a proposed event or decide if it isn't feasible.

#### **2018 Work Plan**

Lance said he was continuing to refine the hybrid approach into a draft work plan and vision statement and hoped to have something further to present at the March meeting.

#### **Discussion**

None.

#### **Adjournment**

With no further business, Julie made a motion, seconded by Doug to adjourn. It passed on a voice vote 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 PM.