

FORT CALHOUN ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING July 27, 2015
6:00 PM Fort Calhoun City Hall

The meeting was called to order by Judy Boyd, Chairman; the open meeting policy was announced.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Committee members included Judy Boyd, Rosemary Therkildsen, Cheri Oelke, Lori Lammers, Amanda Schrum and Sue Newman

Absent: Ginger Appel

No guests were present.

Minutes of the last meeting had been read on-line by all present. Move to approve the minutes as posted by Lori and seconded by Rose.

OLD BUSINESS:

Farmers Market: Amanda reported that vendors are still saying that they plan to participate, however they have been unreliable.

The fact that we are not charging for the space may be a factor. If the vendors pay a fee for the season they would be more likely to show up. Amanda reported that Blair charges \$50.00 for the season or \$10.00 per session.

The produce has been late in growing this year, it was suggested that if we do this next year, it would be best to not start until after the 4th of July.

The Bounce House will be there for the remainder of the season.

There are vendors that said they will be there next week with pickles and relish.

Arborist Signs: The signs have been installed.

Patio at the Elementary School Historical Marker: Sue has contacted the Alumni Association and they would like to see the Enhancement Committee go forward with this project. A motion was made by Lori and seconded by Rose for Sue to move forward with the first step to be to present the idea to the Elementary School.

Commemorative bricks around the City Hall flagpole: Sue has talked to the Blair Monument Company and they quoted \$25.00 per brick for the engraving and estimated that they would be able to have them done in time for an October installation. Sue will obtain some sample bricks for approval by the committee.

Street Scope: Enhancement Committee involvement in the North end of town is tabled pending discussion with business owners.

At this time, Sue presented the committee with pictures of the Fort Calhoun main street as it appeared shortly after the sycamore trees were planted. According to the picture they were planted in 1900. The pictures also showed the presence of hitching posts between the trees.

The committee is considering adding hitching posts to the current landscape along with a marker of some sort with a short history of the trees. More research is needed before going forward with this project.

The streetscape discussion included the Suverkubbe monument – The Blair paper did a nice write up on this site, which may draw more people to take a look at it. Unfortunately, at the time of the article the area was overgrown and looking bad. So, Sue and Rose immediately spent 3 hours cleaning up the area, pulling weeds. Then on Saturday Sue, Judy and Rose continued the cleanup and put down several bags of mulch. Lori advised that she will trim the tree in that area.

The streetscape discussion also brought to light the fact that the committee members feel that our efforts to enhance the community are undermined by some the following issues:

- The weeds along Hwy 75 on the west side of the road, just south of town.
- Poor upkeep of the main street buildings by tenants or owners, ie: weeds in parking lots and alleyways, broken windows, chipped paint, and trash around the buildings.

The Enhancement Committee would appreciate suggestions or help from the City Council regarding these issues.

Participation in the Washington County Heritage Festival: A motion was made by Cheri and seconded by Sue that we will give out free watermelon at this event between 11 am and 1 pm. Another motion was made by Rose and seconded by Amanda that we participate in the parade by riding in Lori's Jeep and tossing out candy.

NEW BUSINESS

The suggestion of a sign that outlines the history of Fort Calhoun such as the one seen in Weston, Missouri was tabled for later discussion. It was suggested that this might better be a project for the museum.

A move to adjourn was made by Lori and seconded by Rose. The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting scheduled for Monday, August 31, 2015, 6:00 pm at City Hall.

Cheri Oelke
FCEC Secretary