

# Christmas in Calhoun 2015 Wrap-up Meeting

City Hall, 110 S 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Fort Calhoun NE

January 10, 2017 7:00pm

**Call to Order** at 7:04 pm.

**Present:** Eileen Justus; Jeanne Knight; Lori Lammers; Nancy Lawson; Coleen Robinson

**Minutes:** Minutes of the November 29, 2016 meeting were emailed; approved as presented.

**Financial Report:** Christmas in Calhoun has \$3,858.82 remaining in the account.

Received \$1,600 in sponsor donations and had \$2,741.18 in expenses. Financial report approved. Food Pantry Donations - \$325.00 – purchased thirteen \$25 gift cards to put in the Christmas Baskets from St. John's Fort Calhoun Food Pantry and boxes of canned and packaged food for the Washington County Food Pantry. See Financial Summary, attached.

**Christmas in Calhoun 2016:** Planning began in August 2016 and that was a good time to begin

**Events Feedback:** The Christmas in Calhoun was a success with a large turn-out. Approximately

- 225 children received 450 gifts at Kids Shopping and
- Scooter's served coffee and baked goods for everyone
- 275 kids decorated cookies at the Longhorn and enjoyed Austin & Blake's Santa Shakes
- More than 150 children talked with Santa at Soup with Santa
- 30 runners were in the HO! HO! Ugly Sweater Fun Run
- 144 (24 teams of six) participated in the Adult Scavenger Hunt
- 350 visitors voted at the Gingerbread House Contest
- 175 joined Autumn Pointe for their Open House.
- Story time with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Library, Magic Shows at Shear Attraction, the Live Nativity at St. John's and Carols by Candlelight at the Presbyterian Church were enjoyed by children and adults.
- Kids Crafts at the Rustic Inn, Christi Care, Autumn Pointe, Abiding Faith Baptist Church, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Fort Calhoun Presbyterian Church and Pioneer Crafts at the WCHA museum were all well attended and enjoyed by the children.

## **Kids Shopping:**

- Six volunteers wrapped gifts and three were helpers in the gift room at 1:00-2:30pm
- The second shift of volunteers came at 2:30 and the event was basically finished
- Next year at 1:00pm we should have 10 tables of wrappers, 2 self-wrapping tables with an adult helper and four helpers in the gift room.
- Use more gift bags rather than wrapping each gift.
- The volunteers are all willing to do it again next year.

## **Sponsors and Donations:**

- Ask for donations early – in July or August
- Charity alert - make more of an effort to educate everyone about the canned goods and money collected for the Food Banks. Canned goods and day-of event donations were down this year.

**Publicity:**

- Again mail the Christmas in Calhoun Schedule with the Fort Calhoun December water bill, send it home with the elementary school children and post on bulletin boards around town.
- Tree Lighting in the Park, Gingerbread House Contest, Move the Can, and Fun Run flyers were sent home with the elementary school children and posted on bulletin boards.

**New Business**

- Tree Lighting Contest was not done this year – look at doing it again but with some changes.
- Perhaps have outdoor signs at each venue to make them easier to find.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

**Future Dates:**

- Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 7pm – first meeting for Christmas in Calhoun 2016
- Saturday, November 25, 2017 – Tree Lighting in the Park
- Saturday, December 9, 2017 - Christmas in Calhoun

Lori Lammers  
Secretary, Christmas in Calhoun