

Triangle of Opportunity Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: 9.26.2013 – 7:00 pm

Location:
Morton, Illinois

Attendance: Karl and Mary Escelbach, John Birky, Neill Keneipp, Susan Pyles, and John Repogle.

Recognition of guests, visitors: Anita Hohimer from the Down Syndrome Association

The meeting was called to order by John R at 7:00 PM

Minutes of prior meeting were not available.

Treasurer's report The beginning August balance was \$ 9,337.51. We had no income for the month. Expenses for August were \$335.00 (\$35 for bike ride food @ Hopedale and \$300.00 to Down Syndrome Association). The ending balance for the end of August is \$9,002.51. John B made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Susan seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Updates on Previous and On-Going Business

Anita gave us an update on the Down Syndrome Association stating that the group has been around this area since the 1980's. Several opportunities exist for families such as dances, specific services, along with professional speakers (lawyers among others). The general public is invited and encouraged to attend meetings. The group meets at Bethel Lutheran Church in Morton monthly from September through May. Both young persons and adults with downs are provided services through this group. In the tri-county region (Tazewell, Peoria and Woodford) between 400 and 500 persons have downs. For further information the web site is: www.HOIDS.org. Anita thanked the triangle for the donation and indicated we would be recognized as a supporter.

Reflection on 2013 TOOC Tour and discussion of Morton as potential host for 2014 TOOC Tour

The date of August 2, 2014 was considered for the 2014 ride and this date will fit into the event schedule for Morton. Susan will list this date as a part of the Morton events on the state calendar of events (she needed the date from us since her deadline for submission is October 1). Morton has routes of 25, 50, 75 and 100 miles already mapped out and she can easily use any of them for our ride. John R mentioned the possibility of a "fun" ride for kids be held on this date. Susan indicated that Morton has done this type of event in the past and will check into some street blocking to accommodate this. The group felt it would be beneficial to stage the start and end near the downtown area is possible since the triangle is trying to highlight the host community. Two spots can be available (a school and the green space) and both would have convenient parking. Morton has done bike rides (leisure and competitive) and would feel comfortable being the host. All in attendance agreed that we should proceed and plan for Morton to be the 2014 host for the bike ride.

Focus Forward CI Updates: Mary mentioned that the current leadership is in limbo, articles have surfaced giving the impression of lack of benefits from the group, and yet positive statements have been made about the group. Susan felt some more time will be needed before any final decision is to be made in regard to the status of CI.

Discuss Potential sites to host annual dinner (Gil's closing): Several sites were suggested (Main Street Grill Minier, KC hall Morton). If anyone can think of other sites let Matt H know. Also the date of the Spring meeting was discussed. Since the last week of March is most often spring break for area schools this does at times impact attendance. A possible date of April 3, 2014 was suggested and based on the availability of the chosen site could be selected. This will be confirmed at a later meeting.

Website Suggestions: The minutes and meeting dates tabs on the home page do need an update (2012 seems to be the last entries). Since Morton has agreed to be the 2014 host, the bike ride tab can be updated as well (at least the date can be placed there and the actual route(s) added later). The entry form will need to also be changed and entered. The question of who submits information for the updates and in what format came up. Neill will speak with Matt H in this regard. Since we are in our 20th year of existence, it was felt by those in attendance that the web site should highlight this anniversary. John R asked if we have a listing of past officers and or members. Neill indicated that he had some old records and will look for this information. (Side note: when I got home after the meeting I did find the two binders and did find some of this information).

New Business

Phone Numbers: No action taken

Reorganization Updates: Karl gave the group a list of suggestions for monthly meeting attendance and possible speakers. Neill will make a copy and include it with the minutes. It was mentioned that the public needs to be kept aware of what activities and events held by the triangle along with updating the web site.

Community Updates

Morton

- I74 reconstruction on schedule although somewhat distributive
- Courtland Ave revamp for Farm&Fleet construction
- Oct 19 one day pumpkin chuckin event
- pumpkin festival great weather and attendance
- new parking areas in the downtown
- new wine tasting and food service in the downtown area open
- Nov 15 Holly Dazzle
- still completing downtown office space for tourism
- village will own the old Farm&Fleet building after the move

Deer Creek

- fire training facility open
- Madison Street Hot Rod open
- volunteers (young people) at library stepping up
- 5 K run planned along with Peoria Area Accordion Band to perform
- recent village board vacancy filled by former member

Minier -street work planned
 -possible local business changing ownership
 -2017 will be the 150th anniversary of the founding of Minier

Tremont -a block party was held to celebrate the opening of the Community Center
 -a Bridge the Gap (fund raiser for the local schools) had a block party as well

Mackinaw -the new business (Dollar General) recently opened

Next Meeting: October 24, 2013 Minier, IL – 7pm

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted by Neill Keneipp