

Metuchen Parade Commission
February 20, 2024, 7:15 PM
Metuchen Borough Hall

Minutes

Present: Maggy Cook, Rob Giegerich, Dan Granato, Bernie Hertzell, Lisa Hyman, Terry Kohl, Kelley Kramer, Ellen Regan and Wendi Richards

Absent: Denis Kane

Meeting was called to order at 7:16pm by Ellen Regan. Maggy Cook made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes.

Memorial Day Ceremony

- Maggie reported on her meeting with the American Legion.
 - They like the theme, Remember and Honor, and that we are pursuing a longer parade route.
 - It was recommended to ask Richard Hecht to be our Grand Marshal, he is retired U.S. Air Force. Maggy confirmed Mr. Hecht and his wife's participation.
 - We still need to select a viewing officer.
 - It was agreed to dedicate the parade to Judge Pletchner and include on the back of the ceremony program. Maggy will reach out to his wife.
 - The Legion is not aware of any military bound high school seniors. Rob will reach out to the guidance counselors asking them to make us aware of any.
 - The Legion asked that the DPW replace the brackets for the flags along Main Street. Bernie offered to reach out to the DPW.
- Bernie shared that Deacon J. P. Saggese is confirmed to provide the Invocation at the ceremony. Terry will reach out to Neve Shalom to invite the rabbi to participate.

Logistics

- After conducting a vote, it was decided to pursue the longer parade route as majority ruled. Lisa will ask the Council if the parade can step off at Edgar Middle School and proceed down Main Street to New Street, ending at the Plaza.
- Terry will reach out to Robert Bullington to provide the sound.

Participant Registration

- Commission agreed to open registration on April 7.

Art Contest

- The art teachers at Campbell, Edgar and St. Francis were notified of the contest with the request to have submissions completed by May 1.

Entertainment

- Rob confirmed the Metuchen HS band about performing in the parade as well as providing musicians to perform Taps at the ceremony.
- Rob will ask Mo at Hailey's to provide bagpipers for the parade.
- Lisa spoke with Dawn at the MDA and Dawn's preference is not to use the entertainment they have hired for other events in the parade.
- Kelley asked the commission to review the entertainment options she provided via email. She shared that a version of the American Bombshells, American Dolls, are available at \$3k. Lisa thought she may know of a less expensive option.
- Maggy shared that the 6th New York Independent Battery is not available.
- Ellen will reach out to the Navesink Brass, a professional brass quintet, as well as Fred Lehotay.

Winter Festival Parade

- Bernie is in contact with the High School woodshop teacher about building a sleigh in which Santa and Mrs. Claus could ride on in the parade. The sleigh purchased last year will be used for pictures on the Plaza.

New Business

- Lisa to confirm our 2024 budget and if it can be rolled over from year to year. Also, if we were to have the HS woodshop class build the sleigh, how could we pay for the materials?
- Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 19 at 7:15 p.m.