

Village of Oswego 175th Anniversary Celebration Commission Minutes
Monday, January 21, 2008
Annex, 65 West Washington Street
Oswego, IL 60543

Attendance: Ginny Bateman, Lisa Wentzell, Stephanie Miceli, Bobbi Burgstone, Sue Matile, Debbi Krzeminski, Judy Smith, and Michele Bergeron

Absent: Kathy Melton, Dave Krahn, Gert Bohn, and Roxana Giese

Guests: Rhonda Bennett, Joe Bennett, Phil Siedlecki and Judy Siedlecki

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Judy Smith, Co-Chairman for the 175th Anniversary Commission

Introductions were made from the guests visiting.

The Commission reviewed the December minutes. The minutes were accepted as written by a group vote. Motion was carried.

New Business:

Oswegorama Fireworks – Judy Siedlecki reported on the plans for the Fireworks for October 4th during the Oswegorama festival. She has met with two companies regarding quotes and possible locations to host the fireworks in downtown Oswego so that everything can remain in the downtown. She met with Central States Fireworks and Mad Bomber. The Mad Bomber has done the PrairieFest and 4th of July fireworks for a number of years. Both representatives from each company felt that the Lift Station on Harrison Street near Emmett's would be the best place to host the fireworks show. Both have also indicated that the fireworks would start around 8:30 p.m. and run for about 10 – 15 minutes depending on the price. \$5000 would equal about a 10 – 12 minute show and \$7500 would equal a 15 minute show. The fireworks will be close proximity rockets which will help minimize the fallout. Both companies are very reputable and Judy has been working with the Fire Department, Police Department and Public Works to make sure that all scenarios are explored and safety is the top priority. Judy felt that a quote would be available for the commission at the February meeting.

ECO Voyager Canoes – Phil Siedlecki reported that the ECO Commission would like to participate in the Oswegorama celebration by providing a voyager canoe, fur trapper, archer, Indian encampment, and maybe an Indian storyteller which would cost \$75. Phil is friends with Gary Awalt. He provides these activities at Silver Springs during their Hunting and Fishing Days, which takes place the weekend before our festival. The Commission was very interested in offering this activity during the weekend. Phil mentioned that the best spot for this would be on Adams Street, just past the bridge. Ginny Bateman mentioned that the Civil War Encampment would most likely take place at Hudson Crossing Park and wondered if there was enough room for both. The Commissioners felt that there would be enough room and that it would be great to offer both. Ginny mentioned that Chuck Martin was her contact for the Encampment.

Phil also mentioned that the Knights of Columbus was going to be offering Buffalo Burgers throughout the weekend.

Old Business:

Birthday Party Celebration – Sue Matile spoke with Tom Cross to remind him of the upcoming event. She will also be contacting both schools to discuss their involvement with the entertainment aspect of the event. Sue and Debbi will begin shopping for the celebration and sending publicity to the Ledger about the event. It was discussed that the wooden nickels should be ready for the March event. Stephanie will coordinate with Fox Valley Trophy. Michele will send the logo to Stephanie. Michele and Lisa will coordinate the historical display boards and all of them will be ready for the celebration. Sue asked Ginny about any games that the Park District might have which could be borrowed for the event. Ginny said that Kristie Vest should be contacted. Michele mentioned that an email was sent by Kathy Melton regarding the involvement of Plank Junior High. Student Council, they are on board and she is looking into to the securing a high school group to help too. She also wanted feedback from the group regarding ordering temporary tattoos for the kids – the Commission felt that using the Oswegorama logo would be best. Stephanie told Sue that if she need paper to cover the tables, that she could get some end rolls from The Record, Sue needs to let Stephanie know about how many she needs soon. Michele said that everyone should save their receipts and turn them in for reimbursement. Michele also let Sue know that if she needed copies, or anything to please make Michele a list and she could take care of those items at Village Hall.

The group decided that between 300 – 500 wooden nickels should be ordered for the Birthday Party. The logo will be on one side and the name and date – Birthday Party Celebration and March 9, 2008 would be on the other side of the coin.

PrairieFest – Ginny indicated that we were on track for this event and that more info would be available closer to the event.

Oswegorama – Judy asked Rhonda Bennett to report on the Hilltop Gardner's involvement at the event. Rhonda said that the organization would offer a Scarecrow Contest. The club would award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place and have the contest end a head of time and then display the scarecrow entries throughout town during the festival.

Judy announced that she spoke with the 19th Century Club and they will host the historical tour at AmericInn on Sunday, October 5th from Noon – 3 p.m. Jim, manager of AmericInn will offer refreshments to anyone that attends. The tour will consist of about 20 rooms which are named for prominent Oswegoans.

Judy also contacted the American Legion and they are interested in offering some activities such as a pancake breakfast of pork chop supper through the weekend. More details will be forthcoming.

Judy announced that Virgil and Dixie, owners of the Oswego Antique Market will help coordinate the antique show on Saturday, October 4th. One concern that they had was that it might be difficult to get vendors due to the Kane County Flea Market taking place that weekend. Ginny suggested that we advertise it more like an Antique Road Show, since we will also be offering appraisals. Stephanie will get the contact name of the person from Fox Valley Coin to Michele so that he can be booked for this event.

Judy asked if the Country Market could be extended to the first weekend in October so that it can be another activity for people on Sunday during the festival. Ginny will talk to Linda Wilson about that possibility.

Judy also mentioned that she spoke to the Church of the Good Shepherd and they are interested in offering a pie and ice cream social during the weekend.

Entertainment was discussed and Debbi mentioned that the stage that she is renting for the Street Dance would be available for other activities during the day. She asked if it would be possible for the commission to split the cost. She usually spends about \$800 to rent it. Michele mentioned that the Village was purchasing a stage that could be put up anywhere if necessary. The Beard Contest, Dancers and a Big Band were mentioned as possible activities that would need a stage. Phil Siedlecki also mentioned that he spoke with Frank Tieri from OHS and the Barber Shop Quartet was being formed and interested in participating in the festival. They could stroll or use a stage, which ever was preferred by the commission.

Judy mentioned that the Main Street would be closed from Washington to the Wilhelm Building (near Jefferson) for all of the activities. Michele said that she would begin the paperwork so that this could take place. The street would most likely be closed from 6 a.m. Saturday morning to 8 p.m. on Sunday night for set-up and tear-down.

Judy mentioned that the Women's Civic Club would host a cake walk and that all groups need to get their forms in to Michele so that we can begin publicizing the event.

Judy Siedlecki mentioned that at a previous meeting that she had given Dave Krahn a VHS tape of the 150th Anniversary Celebration which she had gotten from Wink Bednarcik. Dave Krahn was looking into getting it transferred on to a DVD. Judy mentioned that she needed the tape back because she needed to get it to Wink's family and they she also had a contact to get the tape turned into a DVD. Judy Smith said that she would discuss this with Dave Krahn. The Commission felt that it would be a good idea to show it during the festival and that the Little White School Museum might be a good place.

Bobbi said that the Historic Preservation Commission would be hosting a walking tour on May 3rd that would encompass businesses and residences on Main Street.

Due to the Village being closed on February 18th for President's Day, the February Commission meeting was rescheduled for Monday, February 11th. Michele will contact the media to make the announcement.

Stephanie mentioned that a memento of the event should be thought about. She liked the idea of a lapel pin, the other commissioners thought that was a good idea. Judy Smith and Stephanie would contact Fox Valley Trophy to see what kind of options would be available. The group also discussed the possibility of mugs, plates and crocks. In an email, Kathy Melton mentioned that she had spoken to Cathy Mundsinger about the possibility of this year's crock having the Oswegorama logo on it. Michele will forward it to Kathy.

Sue talked about the quilt that was being worked on in commemorative quilt which would be raffled off.

The group discussed getting more info into the paper and getting the flyers around town. Michele would revise the flyer this week and email it and have copies available for anyone as soon as possible. Michele will also work with Stephanie and Lisa to get a weekly feature about the upcoming celebration and fun historical facts in the paper.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.
Submitted by: Michele Bergeron