

## **CommUnity Team**

February 7<sup>th</sup> 2023

AJ's Riverside

Members Present: Krista Sobieski, Pat Grahn, Marie Reilly, Bobbie Erdmann, Allison Gohlke, Emmett Durtschi, Kelly Glover, Sue Trampf, Barry Abbott, and Tim Ludolph

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 A.M. by Tim Ludolph.

The January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting notes were reviewed. Erdmann motioned and Reilly seconded the motion to approve the minutes as noted which passed by voice vote.

For the general goals for the group discussion Ludolph distributed the Main Street Four Points as a framework for review. Everyone present introduced themselves.

Sue Tramp gave an update about the ABC Group's recent events finding the Lighting of the Park and Christmas Parade to be continuing to grow with 181 Trees and increased media attention including WBAY and WLUK. The media outlets will be more proactively covering this story next year based on what they witnessed. There was positive feedback to the 12-foot wreath and the extent of the lights, inspiring the ABC group to have ideas about how to build for next year. They have settled on the acts for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July Let Freedom Ring. The group in general discussed these events further.

Kelly Glover discussed Farmer's and Merchant's Bank will be facilitating the Love our Customers event on February 14<sup>th</sup>. She reminded the group that farmers and Merchants is part of the Give 360 program to help build the capacity of local civic groups. The group mentioned Fortifi has a similar program that is good to keep in mind.

Marie Reilly gave an update on Berlin Community Development Corporation activity with the news they are running out of buildings downtown and beginning to shift gears to address the more challenging buildings and sites. Pat Grahn added any building in the Historic Districts should explore Historic Tax Credits and suggested she could be a resource having submitted applications. The City has offered a TID matching grant to help with facades and roofs downtown to work well with the BCDC Revolving Loan.

Barry Abbott gave an update about the Berlin Boat Club summarizing the current events to be an adjustment year. The Corn Roast will be hosted on the usual day of the night cruise related to the Cruzers Car Show and the lock operations are set to be managed for the next three years. The Club is looking into additional fund development resources, community outreach, and alignment with other clubs and organizations to sustain into the future.

Emmitt Durtschi formally introduced Alliston Gohlke as the new Communications Director for the School District discussed the newly launched B-Active program where there will be Recreation opportunity for the Community in this next year. The indoor pool has already had an increase in swimmers and the school has managed to staff the pool in this transitional time. They are programming with the intention of connecting the community at large with the School Facilities, finding advantageous partnerships like being in the visitor's guide. There are new Pre-K 4 programs and an effort to fun Pre-k 3 programs by 2025. The school has also been developing Adult Educational opportunities to facilitate engagement and learning to post High-Schoolers who are unable to attend the offerings of Moraine Park in Fond Du Lac or Beaver Dam.

Emmett Durtschi discussed the Committee of the Whole's last meeting outcomes; with the highlight being a new Tax Incremental District to bring multifamily housing in the vicinity of the Hospital

and School District. The other item of significance is the investment in equipment for the sustainability of the Public Works department.

Tim Ludolph gave an update on the Green Lake Country Group's recent discussions on renaming to Greater Green Lake Visitors Bureau with rebranding and strategic planning to take place. The Social Media endeavors continue and groups are encouraged to reach out to the Bureau with events.

Tim Ludolph updated the group on Industrial happenings including the expansion of Wisconsin Spice and the relocation of WC Russell Moccasin.

Bobbie Erdmann gave an update on the Berlin Area Historical Society. They are encouraging members of the community to become members with fees of just \$15 for an individual or \$25 for families. They are in the planning stages to add two to four new people to the Inspiration Wall and open to recommendations of people with significant contribution who went to the Berlin Area Schools.

Tim Ludolph explained the Library [February 2024 Newsletter](#) will be included in the minutes.

Sue Trampf reported the Lion's Club Cheese sale and annual Coupon Book Fundraiser were both successes, selling out. The Steak Fry is scheduled to occur in June with more information forthcoming.

Krista Sobieski re-introduced herself and clarified she is not a representative of the Berlin Journal but could say the Bridal Guide would be usually forthcoming around this time of the year and the paper is always looking to promote local stories, which is why she finds some doing freelancing.

The group discussed how an online subscription could be useful for the paper to reach a wider audience and be more sustainable.

Pat Grahn introduced her other involvement in the Berlin Area High School's Alumni Association

Tim Ludolph explained the Senior Center [February 2024 Insight Newsletter](#) will be included in the minutes.

Krista Sobieski discussed Unimaginable Hope and distributed flyers for the forthcoming free [Rockin' Oldies Party](#) to occur on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> 2024. This is the event each year that is put on in memory of Marge and Steve Minsky to continue to give to causes including Tennessees for Teens and the Boy's and Girl's Club.

Tim Ludolph distributed the [FFA Blue and Gold fundraiser flyer](#) and Krista Sobieski discussed this event as the primary fundraiser for this group's purpose of developing youth leadership; a purpose that has sustained as the national group has moved away from solely focusing on Agriculture.

The next meeting of the CommUnity Team is scheduled for Wednesday March 6<sup>th</sup> 10 AM at AJ's Riverside.

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 AM