



EDWARDSVILLE – SIUE COMMUNITY DESTINATION GROUP
June 16, 2020

Present: Chad Verbais Chair, Desiree Gerber, Paul Pitts, Joel Hardman, Walter Williams, Doug Rohrer, Tyler Manning, Cheryl Watson

Absent: Kim Durr, Kaitlyn Kyle, Madelyn Walters, Cary Harvengt, Ronald Akpan

Chad opened the meeting at 6:00 pm

Review of May Minutes: Motion to approve minutes: Tyler Manning motioned, Doug Rohrer seconded.

Financials: Doug Rohrer reported that the committee spent \$532.50 on the Parent Tour video from Brandon Rice Video Production. The remaining amount in the budget is currently \$8,549.76.

Scavenger Hunt: Chad stated that he had asked committee members to provide a list of ten different places in the City of Edwardsville that could be used for a scavenger hunt, and reported that he currently has a list of twenty-five places thus far. He will send out the list of the twenty-five places after the meeting. He gave examples of places on the list such as: an independent coffee shop, a unique feature on a bike path, City Hall, Leclair Baseball Field, Mannie Jackson Center, Ninian Edwards statue, Route 66 sign, etc. Walt Williams suggested adding Governor's Plaza to the list with the plaques of the Governors and historical markers for the Old Poor Farm and Old Pogue Store

There was discussion as to whether there should be one scavenger hunt for the students and another for members of the community. It was suggested by Chad and Cheryl that the prizes for the students should be something related to the City, such as an Annie's ice cream cone, and the prizes for the community members should be something related to SIUE, such as tickets to a SIUE basketball game.

Chad also recapped from the May meeting that we should think about whether the photos for these scavenger hunt items could be found online if social distancing guidelines were still in place. He found an email from Kim with information regarding pricing for drawstring bags at 1,000 bags for a little less than \$800. At this time there are approximately 1,600 new freshmen.

Appointment of New Treasurer: Chad Verbais nominated Cheryl Watson as the new treasurer, and Tyler Manning seconded the motion. All in favor of the motion: Chad Verbais, Tyler Manning, and Joel Hardman. There were no voting members against the nomination.

New Ideas for Community Traditions: Chad pointed out that Cougar Cupboard information was posted on the City's social media. He stated that many events are up in the air until Illinois moves into Phase 4. We need to look at possibly hosting virtual events rather than in person events.

Tyler stated that SIUE has been planning what the fall semester will look like, but nothing has been finalized. Events will likely take place in small groups or virtually. For example, First Year First Night will have to change as the move in day for campus housing will take place over a one week period rather than just one day.

Joel gave an update on academics at SIUE and said that the Provost has been gathering information from all of the departments to determine which courses must meet face to face at least occasionally. He stated that in

Phase 4, there would likely be a 70% reduction in classroom usage with the majority of classes being offered online.

There was discussion about the possibility of having food trucks on campus in the fall as the on campus dining options would be restricted. Tyler believes that the soft seating would not back in the University Center as it is too difficult to clean. Joel said that it likely the University Center will continue to be a maze to enter and exit in order to maintain social distancing. A draft recommendation has been to modify the calendar and end all in person classes by Thanksgiving break and to begin spring semester courses online eventually meeting in person towards the end of February with the possibility of eliminating Spring Break in 2021.

Chad brought up that we had discussed a quarterly game night and a cooking with Cougars' online event. Walt is going to follow up with his restaurant connections regarding the cooking with Cougars possible event.

Tyler said that SIUE had an Anti-Racist Task Force and wondered what the City was doing in light of the George Floyd incident. Walt stated that Chief Keven and the Mayor both had round table groups addressing these issues and would soon have a public meeting surrounding what they were doing. Paul said that the Town Hall meeting would be in a question and answer format led by the Chief of Police. He shared that he had been involved with the SIUE campus and community for thirty years and that the community and surrounding communities are not perfect, but the protests that took place in Edwardsville were peaceful and quiet. There are a lot of recommendations behind the scenes, but that the community should not have false expectations. Cheryl suggested that the SIUE Chief of Police be invited to attend these discussions in the City, and Chad thanked Paul for his insight.

Cheryl brought up the need to figure out how to host the Hashbrown Huddle while Tyler thought this would offer a unique opportunity. Walt stated that we are only limited by our own imagination and that the City has been successful conducting events via Zoom.

Doug's last meeting: Doug joked with Paul about referring to him as a "Baby Boomer." He liked being thought of as that young. Doug expressed that it has been a pleasure serving with this group, and everyone thanked Doug for his service.

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 6 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm: Motion to adjourn: Doug Rohrer motioned, Paul Pitts seconded.

Signature: /s/Chad Verbais by staff liaison .