



EDWARDSVILLE – SIUE COMMUNITY DESTINATION GROUP MINUTES
August 18, 2020

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

Present: Chairman, Chad Verbais, Kim Durr, Madelyn Walters, Paul Pitts, Joel Hardman, Cary Harvengt, Tyler Manning, Melissa McDonough-Borden, Cheryl Watson

Also Present: Walter Williams, Desiree Gerber

Absent: Ronald Akpan, Kaitlyn Kyle

Introduction of New Member: Missy McDonough-Borden introduced herself, and then each person present at the meeting introduced themselves to her.

Review of June Minutes: Joel Hardman made a motion to approve the June minutes and Paul Pitts seconded the motion. All were in favor of approving the minutes.

Financials: Cheryl stated that there has been no change, because nothing has been purchased. The amount in the budget remains at \$8,549.76.

Public Health Senior Assignment: Joel indicated that it did not look good to participate in the fall, but the group should look to the spring. He stated that the public health connection needed to have an educational component and we should think about where in the city it would be appropriate to partner with for the Senior Public Health assignment.

Chad thought the YMCA would be a good place to start, since the demographic group of members included the young to the elderly and that one of their goals is to educate their members. Joel also thought the Main Street Community Center may be another place to explore as a possible partner.

Cary mentioned the importance of the educational component and Paul piggybacked on this idea stating school nurses have a direct interaction with students and parents. They could benefit from a good assessment of the day to day dealings with students who can and cannot attend school. Cary stated that this would be great for future preparedness as this likely would not be the last time that a health threat has an impact on education. Chad asked who the head of the nurses in District 7 was as that would be the person to speak to in regards to possible partnering for a project. Paul said that he would find out the person's name. Cheryl liked the concept of exploring and determining the best practices for the future by looking at what was done that worked.

Drive In Movie @ SIUE: The drive in movie that was supposed to take place at Korte Stadium has been put on the back burner. SIUE cannot find a vendor to supply a large enough screen. The student welcome event that will take place is a School Night Send Off Parade. It will take place on Sunday, August 23 with staging of vehicles in Bluff Hall Lot with a 7:00 pm departure and an anticipated conclusion of 8:00 pm. Nothing can be passed out at this parade, but there is no cost to participate and it is a great way for area businesses to get their name out to the students.

Chad has asked Mayor Patton to be in the parade, and the Mayor is checking his schedule. Chad has also asked Desiree to post the parade on the City's social media. Cary said that she will post it on the Edwardsville Public Library's Facebook page, and Tyler will work on obtaining an image for the post.

News from the Mayor: Chad asked specifically how we could work with the City on diversity. The Mayor is finalizing discussions and findings with various groups such as clergy, realtors, and business owners. The Race Relations and Equality group will present their findings and recommendations at a City Council meeting, and then the City would like to coordinate their efforts with District 7 and SIUE.

Paul attended the public Round Table for Race Relations and Equality meetings via Zoom as well as the group that Chief Keaven was working with which had similar objectives to the Round Table. All of the groups are addressing the same issues and a coordinated effort will be beneficial.

New ideas for Community Traditions: The Cougar Unleashed 5K or 10K Fun Run will be virtual this year from September 20 through September 26. Participants will post selfies doing the run and are trying to raise money for SIUE student scholarships. Chad asked that Desiree and Cary post this event on social media.

Chad stated that the welcome activities and receptions are on a small scale and that the university is seeking people interested in helping with programming. He thought the heritages that are celebrated throughout the year may be one avenue to welcome various groups. For instance, September 15 through October 15 is a celebration of Hispanic and Latino cultures.

Chad mentioned the shoebox parade that the City of Edwardsville's Parks and Recreation Department is hosting. He asked Tyler to reach out to fraternities and sororities and share this information with them as a fun way to get involved with the city.

Kim introduced her idea of supplying students in the dormitories with water bottles since the water fountains will not be operational this semester. The Edwardsville-SIUE Community Destination Group's logo could be on the bottle. There was discussion on websites and social media information being on the bottles, as well as, discussion regarding the cost. Everyone liked the idea not only to help out SIUE campus residents, but also for sustainability.

The discussion moved on to tying in the scavenger hunt with the water bottles by having scavenger hunt locations on the water bottles that could be checked off. Scavenger hunt participants could take a selfie with the water bottle at each location. Walt thought the idea made the water bottles not just a useful item but also interactive and fun. Paul moved to spend no more than \$2,000 on the water bottles, and Kim seconded his motion. All members present were in favor. Kim and Tyler are going to contact Casual Tees and move forward with obtaining the water bottles as long as the cost is no more than \$2,000.

Other: Cheryl noted that she was very happy Missy was a part of the group. Cheryl was at City Hall with Cassidy Westjohn removing SIUE students' artwork from the walls. Cary also indicated the SIUE student artwork was being removed from the Edwardsville Public Library. Both Cheryl and Cary looked to Missy in hopes of displaying local artists work in City Hall and the Edwardsville Public Library. Missy thought the artists would be excited, and said she would work on making it happen. Cary asked if she had a Hold Harmless form that the artists could sign. Missy stated that she did have a form and could make a few changes to meet the City's needs.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 6 pm.

Adjournment: Tyler made a motion to adjourn, Cheryl seconded the motion, and all were in favor of adjourning. The meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Signature: Chad Verban