



**EDWARDSVILLE – SIUE COMMUNITY DESTINATION GROUP MINUTES**  
**September 15, 2020**

**Call to Order:** 6:01 pm

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

**Also Present:** Walter Williams, Desiree Gerber, Barbara Strack(Great Rivers and Routes Tourism Bureau)

**Absent:** Kaitlyn Kyle, Joel Hardman

**Review of August Minutes:** Kim Durr made a motion to approve the August minutes and Cheryl Watson seconded the motion. All were in favor of approving the minutes.

**Financials:** Cheryl stated that there has been no change with budget remaining at \$8,549.76.

**Water bottles for students:** Kim welcomed Barbara Strack from Great Rivers and Routes Tourism Bureau and thanked her for the maps that will be distributed along with the water bottles. Kim thought the bottles should be kept simple this year as time is getting away from us. The bottles will have the Edwardsville-SIUE Community Destination Group logo on one side and three Instagram handles on the other side. Ronald Alkapan shared the following Instagrams: @cityofedwardsville, @wildeytheatre, and @madisoncountytransit.

Kim stated that we could provide the water bottles next year with the scavenger hunt locations on the back and the water bottles could be distributed during the SIUE Experience Week. During the last meeting we voted to spend no more than \$2,000 on the water bottles for this year. The water bottles will be red with black lettering.

Paul Pitts asked if it would be useful if committee members assisted in the distribution of the water bottles. Kim stated that SIUE was doing everything they can to de-densify the campus. Paul expressed that the students enjoyed and benefited from interacting with members of our group, and Kim agreed but stated that this was not feasible with the current circumstances. Tyler concurred saying that he loved the idea, but the strict policies in place would not allow for committee members to participate in the distribution.

Tyler Manning said that Mallory from housing will be handing the water bottles and maps out to the Resident Assistants, who will then distribute to the freshmen residents. Chad stated that if there were extra water bottles available that they should be distributed out on the quad to students. Chad said that it is a very different campus at this time with Ronald and Maddie agreeing that it is crazy quiet.

**SIUE Send-off Parade:** Chad participated and indicated that thirty to forty cars participated in the parade making a big loop around campus. He stated that Mayor Patton was unable to participate, but the parade went well and possibly may be the beginning of a new tradition every fall.

Chad let the group know that the Parks and Recreation Department Shoebox parade entries could be viewed at City Hall. He stated that the SIUE Alumni Association asked Tyler if any student organization had participated. Tyler stated that he did not believe that any participated.

**New Art in City Hall:** Missy McDonough-Borden said that she has reached out to Carolyn, the EAC Gallery Manager, in order to get artist lined up, and thought a six month time period at City Hall and the Edwardsville Public Library seemed appropriate. She was thinking a time frame of October through April. Cary stated that the locations of the artwork in the library are not in locations with a lot of traffic at this time, so the library would hold off until some of the COVID restrictions were lifted. In regards to City Hall visitors, Cheryl and Desiree thought the best place to begin would be in the Council Chambers.

**Fall Plans:** Chad shared that the Heritage Month group that was currently underway is the Hispanic group that is doing livestreamed events. Cheryl shared her idea of inviting a representative from the Heritage Month group each month to our meetings. Paul concurred and thought it was a great idea to broaden our awareness of each group and the groups' awareness of what is taking place in the city.

The Hashbrown Huddle has been a tradition bringing together student government and City Officials. Chad expressed his concern whether or not this could be a successful virtual event. Tyler and Maddie both think that this event could still take place and after Maddie sent out some messages she stated that a Friday morning would work for the students. Tyler specified that this event could begin as one large group with break out rooms for different topics. Cary asserted the need to have the topics ready ahead of time for ease of planning. Tyler stated that he is happy to help and that preregistration would also be beneficial.

**New ideas of Community Traditions:** Chad brought up incorporating more art in the community. Missy stated that there is interest among artists to create murals on buildings, as she had some discussions with artists three years ago. Walt shared that there are Girl Scouts that are currently working on a plan to place their artwork on large canvases that would be attached to the wall of Goshen Market. There was discussion about making it a contest with a theme noting examples from other communities. Route 66 was mentioned as a possible theme that could take place during the Route 66 Festival.

Kim Durr stated that the Halloween Parade has been a missed opportunity. This is a place where this group could reach out to a large number of people by participating in the parade and handing out business cards. The likelihood of the parade happening this year is slim, so this idea will be revisited for 2021.

Cary brought up the art topic stating that Nate Tingley, the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, had mentioned interest in placing sculptures in the parks. Missy said that there had been some discussion about placing pads in front of schools for sculptures.

**Campus into the Edwardsville Community:** Tyler said the Rotary Student of the Month is still taking place. However, only one student applied in September. Cheryl thought that the Heritage Month could be tied together with artwork from each group being showcased, and Missy said that this could also be done as a virtual exhibition. There was some discussion on the appropriateness of artwork and the need to set parameter in the beginning. Missy indicated that she is not afraid to censor and set agreed upon parameters.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 6 pm.

**Adjournment:** Tyler Manning made a motion to adjourn, Paul Pitts seconded the motion, and all were in favor of adjourning. The meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm.

Signature: 