

## **\* 4th of July Steering Committee Meeting**

**Monday, January 12th, 2026 @ 7:00pm**

**@ Gosia's Rustic Kitchen\***

- **Attendees:** Carol Williamson, Diana Schwartz, Ashley Beasley, Nancy Wallace, Heidi Raxon, Laura Dietrich Gillim, Sheila Evans, Maggie Baniak, Ryan Retz, Silas Devaney, Heidi Keinholz, Steve Martin, Betty Lee Cooper, Ron Stone, Yvonne Abernathy, Tim Deline, Zach Burger, Austin, Darryl Hall, & Levi McKinney
- Carol started the meeting with a short introduction of herself as new president of the events committee and the members in attendance.
- Need community assistance to pull off the 4th of July as there is more to the celebration than just fireworks and this year is the 250th anniversary of the United States.
- Zach Burger with BurgerHaus presented a fireworks proposal.
  - They have done fireworks at several communities including Tipton.
  - Quote is for \$15,000
  - Believes there is a better area to set off fireworks than has been done in the past. Concerned with staying away from the gas main off of SR38. Would instead suggest shooting the largest fireworks off near a dumpster in the southeast corner of the park. They would shoot straight up and clear the trees surrounding the clearing. Heidi Keinholz said Travis has launched there in the past and doesn't think there would be an issue.
  - More shells than last year in his quote.
  - 5" shells were the largest used last year. He proposes using 8" shells this year with clearance of up to 825 feet. Smaller ones would also be used as well and some ground displays for people at the park that won't go over 120 feet in the air.
  - They contract using a mobile-based app to design the show with an audio soundtrack that can include an intro prerecorded with sponsorships mentioned. Viewers would need to download an app and use a 4-digit code to hear. Could also have DJ play music over the speakers at the park.
  - Fireworks set off using both electronic and hand lit means.

- The show would be an estimated 20 minutes long.
- Payment due before show with a 50% deposit down.
- Rain dates are flexible.
- A total of 2,647 fireworks were proposed including the finale of 278 fireworks.
- The festival usually begins after the parade winds through town and out to park. In the past, people leave the park around 2pm and don't return until around 8pm which is leaving vendors unhappy about the amount of downtime and making it more difficult to entice vendors to come.
  - Discussion about moving the parade start time. Most agreed that keeping it at 10am was the only way to ensure participation from the community since competing parades pull groups like the marching band and others.
  - In the past, vendors served food in the morning right after the parade and then left in the afternoon. Popcorn and other light food items were then sold for fireworks out of the concession booth.
- The committee has tried to keep costs down and as much of the festival free for the public.
  - Roughly \$25,000 cost for last year's 4th of July (fireworks included)
  - Construction of SR47 may be affecting the location of the car show and other events this year which may impact fundraising.
- Theme for this year's 4th of July: Generations of Independence: Sheridan Through the Years
  - Slide show at the park throughout the day displaying pictures of past 4th of July celebrations submitted by community members.
- Hamilton County Tourism grant application is being submitted. They have given between \$500-\$10,000 to other communities in the past. There is a priority this year for festivals that have never been given to before so the committee is hopeful we will receive some form of support.
- Steve Martin with the Sheridan Historical Society said they would be glad to display an americana display after the parade in their museum on Main Street. He suggested they might be open during the 2pm-6pm lull in the park festivities

which would provide a nice, air-conditioned option for community members in the warmest part of the day.

- Sharon Brimberry suggested working with the school organizations to include performances by children from Sheridan schools to encourage attendance of families to the event.
- Sheridan Rec League may be willing to have fundraising days for the event?
- Past activities at the 4th and Brainstorming ideas:
  - 3-on-3 basketball competition
  - Tractor obstacle course
  - Horseshoe competition
  - 3-legged races
  - Spoon/egg races
  - Kickball game
  - Farmers bike riding
  - GoKart race in back of park
  - Cornhole competition
  - RC cars race
  - Bike races
  - Ping Pong ball drop from airplane
  - Honest Abe (or someone else) reading the Declaration of Independence before the beginning of the parade.
  - Line-dancing
  - Water balloon fight
  - Eating contests (hot dogs, watermelon, pies, etc)
  - Watermelon seed spitting competition
  - Hula hoop competition
  - Musical chairs

- Cake walk
- Water activities in the the heat of the day
- Foam party
- Sprinklers
- Cooling tents/stations
- Golf cart decorating contest around 1pm?
- Chainsaw carving demonstration using the stump next to the main baseball diamond.
- Hoop/stick competition
- Ryan Retz proposed doing fireworks. In addition to nighttime fireworks, he has daytime smoke cake fireworks that can be set off at the end of races if we would like.
- An ice cream factory in Sheridan in the past was asked about. Dandy Breeze is the name and Cindy Keever may have a contact for them.
- Thanked everyone for coming and asked that they continue support for the event by encouraging sponsorships, donations, volunteering for the event and participation in the activities.
- A new website will be up this week. [www.SheridanEvents.org](http://www.SheridanEvents.org)

Minutes submitted by: Diana Schwartz 1.15.26

Approved: