Homecoming Committee Meeting

3/30/2023

The first meeting for the 2023 Homecoming Committee meeting was a success!  Thank you for everyone who could make it and contributed their ideas and time.  I have summarized the events, details and volunteers that were discussed.

Homecoming 2023

Theme: Decades

“A Decade to Remember”

Decorate your float, store fronts and yourselves as your favorite decade.  Our hope is that the class reunion folks will be excited to dress up in the garb from their graduating decades, which will entice them to participate more fully in the themes to come.  It would be easy for store owners and volunteers to throw on a hoop skirt or pump themselves full of hairspray.  Also, for the men who don’t like dressing up they could just wear a white t-shirt and jeans and still be a part of the fun!

MERCHANDISE VENDORS

* Lidia Williams has a list of craft vendors and others that may want to set up for homecoming.

FISH FRY

* The Sportsman Club will cook the fish
* Chamber supplies the fish and collected donations to pay for it
* Chamber Volunteers for fish fry serving / donation collection: Bob Matcham, Jana Wallace & Stephanie Miller
* Need more structure? Numbers?

DOG  PAGEANT

* Was a hit last year
* Brandi Dean can volunteer for whatever is needed for this

TURTLE RACES

* Taken care of by The Masons

STREET DANCE

* The Army Base has said that setting up the dance on High Street is a nightmare.
* Having the dance in front of (facing) the Wildlife Heritage Center (Woodstock vibe) would give us a street that is less travelled to dance on.
* The stage and sound equipment would be much easier to set up at that location
* If it rains, the fair barn would be a contingency plan (talk to Delbert?)
* Have a smaller trailer for back up for the band if it does rain, one that will fit inside the fair barn
* $400 for stage

ART SHOW & SILENT AUCTION

* held inside the fair barn
* art show could have two categories, local professional and schools
* the 4-H Club has projects completed during that time, they could showcase their work
* local professionals could also showcase their work
* Courtney Bell from Antlers Motorsports said they could contribute lots of things for the silent auction (coolers, etc.)
* It was not a big hit last year because we didn’t get the word out, MUST ADVERTISE

BEER GARDEN

* Will and Colby Chandler of the rotary says that they will handle the Beer Garden
* Shawnda Cox of the Bath House also said she will have something going on in the back of her place (speakeasy)

DUNKING BOOTH

* Talk to Delbert and Clint about renting the dunking booth

KIDS ACTIVITIES

* Mike Taylor spoke with Karl Laeger at the VFW, they would be willing to help with Bouncy Houses (~3)
* The Army Depot has cheap bouncy houses, rock walls, a bucking bull
* We could do face painting: Amanda Alfred does face painting.  Sally Abernathy said she could talk to the YAB kids to see if they could help

CORNHOLE?

* Must be inside fair barn because of the equipment
* Will under a pavilion suffice?
* Cody Rodenberger – but he will be out of town doing another cornhole tournament that weekend

FOOD TRUCKS

* Lidia Williams has a list of food truck vendors (~6 good ones)
* They can set up at the First Bank park
* Mike Taylor also has that list of vendors

FAIR GROUND FUN

* Cake walks – local churches
* Cow patty bingo – Kelly Mae?
  + All we need is cow panels and a cow
* We could have a “temporary tax break”
  + Don’t charge the $10 vendor fee to set up outside
  + The vendors give 2% of their sales to the Chamber
* For inside the fair barn, keep the entry fee low to attract more vendors

GOSPEL SINGING

* At the FirstBank park

BAND

* Mike Taylor already has the band and equipment booked

PARADE

* Mike Taylor will go around and ask businesses for donations for the float prize money
* BEST FLOAT & MISC FLOAT
* Judges??
* We need more structure!  Number the floats the night before?
* Try to get local businesses more involved, creating their own floats.
  + We could offer high school kids community service opportunity by helping businesses build the floats
  + The Chamber can issue letters for the students for college apps, etc.
* Float entry forms: must have size of float

REUNIONS

* There needs to be 2 volunteers from the Chamber at Moyers, Rattan & Antlers High Schools
* Will help set up, registration, etc.
* Brandi Dean & (will rope someone else in) : Rattan

MR & MRS HOMECOMING

* Create ballot boxes and place around different shops in Antlers
* Write in ballot, whomever gets the most votes wins
* Winners will ride in Chamber trailer
  + Trailer will get new seating and painted rims

PLANE JUMPS

* Do not have a commercial license, cannot charge but can accept donations
* Was a hit last year, even though they had to go out to the landing strip

AFTERTHOUGHTS

* ADVERTISING
  + Will Payne  - will he do a segment where he sat down with a few of the Chamber members to get the word out?
  + Mike Taylor will call him
* Car show
  + Shane Hindman & Will Payne were involved
* Poker run for Harley riders
  + Fundraiser

We will be using “Sign Up Genius” to create lists of activities that volunteers can sign up for.  That list will be pivotal for keeping track of what events there are, who signed up for what at what times.

Brandi will be available at the Chamber Office 8am - 5pm the entire week before Homecoming.  The Chamber Office will be the hub for collecting forms and money, after 1pm people can go to City Hall.

Again, thank you everyone for your time and effort!  There is much work to be done, so keep up the good work.