

FIREWORKS FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 7, 2008

7:00 p.m.

A meeting of the Fireworks Fundraising Committee was held in the Conference Room of City Hall on October 7, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance at the meeting included Mayor Al Haidous (7:36), Mayor Pro Tem Donna McEachern, Councilman Albert Damitio, Councilman Mathew Mulholland, City Manager John J. Zech, Parks and Recreation Director Kimberly Alexander, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jeffrey Rutter, City Clerk Mary E. Carney.

Mayor Pro Tem McEachern called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Discussion was in regards with raising funds for the annual fireworks display. City Manager Zech informed those present that an ad hoc committee is good, but for something that everyone wants every year, there needs to be some type of mechanism for raising funds. He presented the committee with the following items to consider:

1. The City Council would establish a permanent committee which could also include people from the community.
2. Initiate a 50/50 Club in which people would donate \$50.00 with a possible City match.

City Manager Zech stated that he hopes for fireworks fundraising to evolve into something like the Goodfellow's organization in that the money spent in current year is the money which was raised the previous year. He also suggested some type of recognition for persons donating to the event.

Mayor Pro Tem McEachern stated that she felt it was rather important to have groups, such as school groups, make a commitment (i.e. pop cans) to the event, but is worried with regards as to what point the community is saturated with asking for donations. Parks and Recreation Director Kimberly Alexander stated that she is in favor of the group commitment idea as opposed to always asking the business community. She also suggested the establishment of a Community Foundation as certain events appeal to certain people. She further stated that people might be willing to donate their time and money if a group was formed to have the event every year.

Councilman Albert Damitio stated that in his opinion it was a good idea to establish a committee on an on-going basis with matching funds as it is good to not wait until the last minute to plan for the event.

Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Rutter stated that liked the idea of a fundraising committee and the idea of not having to ask the business owners every year. He stated that he also likes the idea of partnering with groups for events which has worked well for the Department in the past.

Director Alexander voiced her concerns with the idea of the City matching funds for fireworks and not matching funds for other groups.

Mayor Haidous arrived at the meeting.

Members of the committee were asked to compile a list of those people that might want to be on such a committee to raise funds for fireworks for the next meeting.

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Tuesday, October 21, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Mary E. Carney
City Clerk