

Downtown Alton, Inc.
Monthly Meeting
Jan 22, 2007
7:00pm Mac's Time Out

Meeting Minutes

Facilitator:

Russ Smith

Bossanova Lounge, rsmith957@charter.net

Attendees:

Don Huber

Alton Township Supervisor, altontwp@charterinternet.com

Tom Hoechst

Madison County Board

Greg Graham

ACT Auto Body and Spirits Bar

Mac Lenhardt

Mac's Time Out

Jodie Stewart

Mac's Time Out, jodiestewart@msn.com

Tim Brueggeman

Spirits Bar, timothy.brueggeman@agedwards.com

John Hentrich

Riverbender.com, john@riverbender.com

Jason Watkins

Wild Track Bikes, jdub742@yahoo.com

Jan Coats

Patchwork Plus, patchplus@piasanet.com

Darryl Brothers

Mosaics Home Furnishings, mosaicgallery@aol.com

Robert Creighton

Mosaics Home Furnishings, mosaicgallery@aol.com

Brenda Eardley

Paul Lauschke

Rhonda Anderson

Alton Park and Recreation

Kim Lucker

Chez Marilyn, Kimlucker@charter.net

Brett Stawar

Alton CVB, bstawar@visitalton.com

Pat and Vicki Hill

Chiliheads, patthill@piasanet.com

Ed Benz

New Frontiers Furnishings, fronfurn@midwest.net

Jim Ryan

City Alderman

Brenda Hoven

Christian Hill Resident

Helen Davidson

Ciao Bella Scooters, ciaobellascooters@gmail.com

Introduction:

Brief introduction of all present.

History:

Russ stated that Downtown Alton had an organization with approximately 50 members years ago. Lack of interest caused the organization to go sour. Two years ago the Alton Marketplace elected not to sponsor the Alton Block Parties. Downtown bar and restaurant owners formed Downtown Alton Inc. with the help of City Attorney James Schrepf to sponsor the block parties.

Besides the Block Parties, DAI, with help from Paul Lauschke teamed up to collect donations for the hanging baskets downtown. Last year the product cost \$2500.00 plus another \$500.00 plus for watering every day for 4 months. Tom Hoechst stated that Upper Alton waters twice a day. Last year DAI did not collect enough donations to pay for flowers and watering, so the city is donating to the project this year.

**Four Point
Approach:**

Russ Smith was a board member of the Alton Marketplace for a year and they followed the Illinois Main Street Four Point Approach to organizing committees: Design, Organization, Promotion, and Economic Restructuring. DAI Four Point Approach is enclosed.

**Committee
Report:**

Russ stated that four committees are not formed yet. If interested let him know. Progress in two areas already this year are:

Block Parties: Mac stated that there will be six block parties this year. Sponsorship funds from Dixon Distribution increased for the upcoming block parties. Security is in place. Improvements for the Block parties will include more activities for the children and to promote a business expo boulevard for downtown merchants and business owners (other than bar and restaurant). It will allow downtown businesses to show products/services. All proceeds go to Downtown Inc. only. Russ stated as of January the balance statement shows \$1600.00. Balance sheet is available. Jim Ryan stated there were no complaints from last years events and also stated that Christian Hill residents will not allow a band on State Street. Greg Graham suggested more security on State Street. We want to keep communication good between DAI and Christian Hill. There was a suggestion of having better themes this year. DAI purchased a stage last year as well as insurance for the Block Parties. Mac is looking into hiring a national act for the September Block Party.

**Beautification/
Litter**

Mayor Sandidge and city will donate \$2000.00 for product if we agree to maintain the flowers. Rhonda from Park and Recreation stated that Alton Beautification and Clean City Committee will be okaying our request for \$1000.00 for coordinating the islands. We must match the grant. Possibly could have \$3000.00 for beautification. Mac suggested hiring a young student for four hours a day to water flowers and empty trash cans and pick up litter. Other suggestions were to hide the dumpsters. Talk of hiring a consultant for DAI to map out plan for the beautification of Downtown Alton Islands. Could do in phases. Brett wanted to know about having a snow removal service for DA.

Membership: Don Huber voiced concerns about business joining at these levels. Make sure everyone agrees. He stated we need to start generating income. Don suggested asking for donations first instead of fee levels. Need to determine boundaries for DAI.

Other: Tom Hoechst suggested tie in the people and businesses without alcohol businesses. Examples were: runs, bike races, car shows, Cook offs, sidewalk sales, art displays of local artists, and wine tasting. He suggested to make block parties more family oriented. John Hentrich suggested forming a group forum on line thru Riverbender.com. Let him know if interested.

Next Meeting: February 26th at 6:00pm. Russ will let us know of location.

Adjournment: 7:10pm by Russ Smith