

Metuchen Parade Commission
March 19, 2024, 7:15 PM
Metuchen Borough Hall

Minutes

Present: Maggy Cook, Dan Granato, Bernie Hertzell, Lisa Hyman, Denis Kane, Terry Kohl, Kelley Kramer, Ellen Regan and Wendi Richards

Absent: Rob Giegerich

Meeting was called to order at 7:20pm by Ellen Regan. Kelley Kramer made a motion to approve the February meeting minutes.

Memorial Day Ceremony

- American Legion will provide the color guard; the Rutgers ROTC and the U.S. Military are not available.
- Denis confirmed Retired Navy Chaplain Wilfredo Rodriguez is available to do the Benediction. Terry has not heard back from Neve Shalom.
- Commission agreed to have Denis Kane serve as this year's Reviewing officer.
- Flowers will be needed for the wives of Grand Marshall and Reviewing Officer. Gardenia's and Anderson's have contributed in the past.
- Lisa will alert Mayor Busch that he will be giving the proclamation. It is Metuchen's 97th annual parade.

Logistics

- Lisa will ask the Council and Chief Flaherty if the parade can step off at Edgar Middle School and proceed down Main Street to New Street, ending at the Plaza. Dan will find out when the construction on Orchard Street is set to begin.
 - If approved, committee will do a walk-through of the staging area at Edgar Middle School
- Terry confirmed Robert Bullington will provide the sound.
- Bernie will connect with the DPW on the brackets on the parking meters, which cause the flags to not lay properly

Publicity

- Wendy shared that Blue Parachute is not available to use for the Main Street banner. She will find out if there is another approved vendor we can use.
- Once the parade route is confirmed, Ellen will reach out to Brandon to create a flyer.

Entertainment

- Navesink Brass, a professional brass quintet, is not available.
- Fred Lehotay is available and booked.
- Kelley to research additional ideas for entertainment and share with the commission.

Winter Festival Parade

- Bernie met with Kevin Smedley, the Metuchen HS woodshop teacher. He is very interested in having his class build a sleigh for Santa and Mrs. Claus. He also knows of Eagle Scouts who would be available too. His thought is the Art students could paint the sleigh.
- Bernie to request a cost estimate. Commission thinks the material expenses could likely be sponsored.

New Business

- Lisa to confirm our 2024 budget and if it can be rolled over from year to year.
- Next meeting will be Tuesday, April 16 at 7:15 p.m.