

HARRODSBURG FIRST



2020

Meeting Minutes

Includes minutes of regularly scheduled board meetings and special called meetings of Harrodsburg First for the 2020 calendar year.

Harrodsburg First

MEETING MINUTES

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING – 6 AUGUST 2020

Meeting held at 1200 at the office of Harrodsburg First, 109 South Main Street, Harrodsburg

Board Members Present

Allen Goldie (president)
Leslie Bosse
Connie Allen
Deb Bonanno-Slaninka

Drew Hardgrove
Allen Barlow
Noel Turner (Treasurer)
Jimmy Drakeford

Board Members Absent

Albert Moore
Chris Dotson
Lora White

Other Attendees/Guests

Julie Wagner, Executive Director

Allen opened the special-called meeting. He discussed the prevalence of festival cancellations due to COVID-19 to include, recently, the Jazz Festival. He stated that it was the consensus among the committee that we should “follow suit” and cancel Oktoberfest. He stated that the situation could be better as the time approached and, if it was, perhaps we could plan something smaller. Allen stated that it would be very tough and costly to proceed with the planning and execution of the event. It was also noted that the Mayor was not in favor of the plan submitted by Noel as a way to still have Oktoberfest. Allen stated that we don’t have the funding needed from the City and there’s no point in expending resources only to have someone from Frankfort come down and tell 2/3 of the people to go home.

Julie passed out a press release that Allen, Connie and she has worked on that announced that we were cancelling Oktoberfest. She asked the attendees to review the document and offer suggestions, disapprovals/approvals.

Drew suggested “shutting down completely” until after the pandemic has passed, that we would “be better served going into hibernation until the dust settles.” He furthered stated that “we are paying a price in keeping the doors open.” “It is wiser to seal the bank account and close operations.”

Allen suggested that we think about Drew's suggestion and add it as an agenda item for the regularly scheduled meeting.

Noel asked how much money we have spent to date on Oktoberfest. Julie replied that we have paid no deposits. Allen said, "Not one dime." Julie added that we have not even spent money on advertisements. Noel further stated that he's been to Disney and "if they can do it, we can do it." After some discussion, Allen added that Disney has initiated a lot of measures that are costly and arduous. Connie added that we have "no local control" in our situation. Disney has all the control it needs; it's not a fair comparison.

Jimmy added some hypotheticals as to the possible negative consequences of having Oktoberfest; others chimed in as to the likelihood that the event would not breakeven, financially. Discussion continued, citing the Health Department's suggestion (or edit) not to have graduation and the hard feelings that caused throughout the community.

A vote was called as to whether to cancel Oktoberfest or keep it. The vote was as follows:

- Chris Dotson (by proxy).....cancel
- Lora White (by proxy)cancel
- Albert Moore (by proxy)cancel
- Allen Barlow.....cancel
- Noel Turnerkeep it
- Leslie Bosse.....cancel
- Deb Bonanno-Slaninka.....cancel
- Jimmy Drakefordcancel
- Connie Allen.....cancel
- Drew Hardgrove.....cancel
- Allen Goldie.....cancel

The vote being 10 to "cancel"; 1 to "keep", Oktoberfest is cancelled for 2020.

At some point, Julie or Allen mentioned that the Tourist Commission gave Harrodsburg First \$30,000. She stated that the money was not fenced for Oktoberfest, but that she was clear that the funding requested from the Tourist Commission was for operation. She reviewed that the City gave Harrodsburg First \$5,000 and the County gave \$15,000. A budget discussion will be on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Returning to the discussion of the press release, members offered some minor changes. Connie added that the Board consider sending a letter to those from whom we were going to request donations explaining that Oktoberfest 2020 was cancelled, but please remember Oktoberfest 2021 in their budgets for next year.

Motion by Deb to adjourn; second by Leslie.

