

City of Rock Falls 150th Anniversary Celebration

Third Meeting 7-28-2016 6:00pm

Attendees:

Mayor Wescott, Clerk Arduini, Alderman Troy Ebenezer, Ryan Ebenezer, Jodi Perez, Melinda Jones, Frank Yaklich

Mayor Bill Wescott welcomed guests, and everyone introduced themselves. Mayor Wescott informed the group that he has been working with the City Attorney to develop a 501-C3 to accept donations, and to make payments for the sesquicentennial events. The account will be run through the City, but it would have separate accounts from the City.

Mayor Wescott stated that one of the larger expenses in the past was the pageant that was produced by an out of state company. The cost in the past for that company was \$28,000-\$35,000. City Clerk Eric Arduini has spoken to Brent Young concerning the pageant, and Mayor Wescott has will be meeting with the Rock Falls High School and Woodlawn Arts Academy.

Mayor Wescott introduced the idea of having pictures of famous Rock Falls residents placed around town with a game to try to guess who it is, and what did they do. It is important to raise up the past people and businesses from Rock Falls. Alderman Ebenezer suggested placing old pictures of the buildings in front of the buildings as they currently stand.

THEME DAYS

The Committee discussed the theme days during the festival. The last Saturday would be a parade.

Parade for the last Saturday: Alderman Ebenezer suggested having a party on the last Saturday of the event with possible band contests for local bands, and food contests for local cooks.

A Rock Falls High School alumni band concert: was suggested. This would be a concert band to allow for alumni to join that are unable to march in parades.

Time Capsule: There is a time capsule that is to be opened during the event. It would be opened, and have to be re-filled. The contents could go on display at a sesquicentennial headquarters location.

Ag & Industry: There are people in our community that may have access to antique agricultural, and other products formerly produced in Rock Falls. Gerald Foskitt, Tim Keller, Matt Lillpop, Joe Mc Donald.

Mayor Wescott has sent letters to neighboring towns in the area asking for dates of upcoming events to have Rock Falls represented in their parades with a float or hand-outs. He has also begun asking churches, and civic organizations to update their section of the books that will be produced.

LOGO CONTEST

The City received 9 submissions, and the group viewed them. These will be reviewed by local artists, and historians. The recommendation should be ready for the next meeting, and then the winning logo will be approved by the City Council.

There is around \$3000 in an account with the City currently to get started. The sesquicentennial group may need a small startup loan from Tourism to get going. In the past advertising paid for the books to be produced, and the books were then sold to raise money for the event.

The next meeting will be held August 9th, 2016 at 6:00pm the date will be the 2nd Tuesday of the month to accommodate volunteers who attend church on Wednesdays.