



## FARMINGTON BICENTENNIAL TASK FORCE

May 28, 2024  
7 PM – 33791 Hamlin Ct.

Committee members present: Sean Murphy, Courtney Showalter, Pam Green, Chris Halas, Maria Taylor, Jill Keller, Maria S-G

Committee members absent: Micki Skrzycki

Sean called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

### A/ FARMERS MARKET

Sean reported that proceeds from farmers market and events totaled \$5,780. This does not account for hard costs or sales by local businesses. Chris showed a new market promo video (200 years of farming). Will talk to Scott Freeman to run in Civic, distribute for posting on social. Committee members signed up for farmers market, Art On the Grand shifts. Pam has been writing bios, will be recruiting kids for a wax museum event, to take place during an upcoming farmers market.

### B/ ART ON THE GRAND

Committee members discussed booth design and were reminded to process cash transactions on card reader (scroll down, hit cash). The “Postcards to Farmington” project will debut at Art On the Grand, then appear at the bicentennial booth thereafter at events. When not in use by the committee, it will be hosted at the library as part of the Summer Reading Club program. Thanks to Carl for the poster.

### C/ MERCH UPDATE AND PLAN

Maria T showed the new merch designs for Art On the Grand. More pint glasses will need to be ordered shortly. Thanks to Pam for volunteering to package for-sale postcards.

### D/ CONSIDERATION OF SUPPORT FOR MASONS CORNER

Masonic Plaza is being promoted as a commemoration of Farmington’s bicentennial year; the committee has been helping the crowdfunding effort through selling DDA merch and tote bags at our booth, creating the video for the Patronicity campaign (shout-out to Chris and videographer Nick), and assisting with promotional efforts. As of this meeting, the fundraising campaign needs to raise \$23,000 in 10 days to meet the \$75,000 goal for a matching grant through Main Street Oakland County's Placemaking and Public Space program.

Sean suggested the Bicentennial Task Force put \$5,000 toward hitting that target: either proceeds from the merch recoup fund (subject to Council approval) or from the bicentennial budget. Discussion ensued. The committee agreed that Masonic Plaza is a high priority for the bicentennial year, as this park will outlast our events, our merch, and live on beyond ourselves. The negative impact of failing to raise the \$75k was also noted. It was also noted that \$5k is 10% of our budget, and putting it toward the park would mean foregoing other projects we’ve

planned. The committee agreed that any potential contribution should be only at the last minute and only if all other funding sources have been exhausted.

MOTION by Jill, supported by Maria S-G:

Move to donate up to \$5,000 to Masonic Plaza, subject to the following stimulations:

- Committee is noted as a project donor
- Merch proceeds will be used
- DDA makes a contribution
- Last-day call
- And any minor amendments from the City Attorney

AYES: 7

NAYS: 0

E/ TIMELINE/PROMENADE PROJECT

Carl and Brian Golden are working on panels 3 and 4. Committee will take the project before ZBA after property owner has signed off, tentatively June 12 or July 3.

F/ THEN-AND-NOW APP/LIGHT SHOW

Pam recapped her efforts to create a sponsorship package for DTE. Discussion ensued over whether to include a \$500 sponsorship level; the consensus was to include it. Maria T to finalize sponsorship level flier. Pam and Maria S-G will hit up Indoplex Drive businesses.

G/ FOUNDERS FESTIVAL

Pam reported on Founders Festival contacts. Chief Unruh is reaching out about historic fire trucks. Wax museum kids will carry the current bicentennial banner in the Founders Festival parade, which is themed "Decades."

The committee has been working on ways to generate bicentennial floats without having to make one ourselves. FPS arts clubs were contacted but did not want to work on this project the summer. The committee then proposed that the Mayor's Choice award be given for best bicentennial-themed float. Despite suggesting it herself earlier this year, Julie Law has proven unwilling to collaborate on this idea. The committee decided to drop the bicentennial float idea and focus its energy on more fruitful efforts.

Maria S-G called Julie Law about the bingo location and a potential Guinness Book sponsor. No response, will follow up. Maria T will follow up one more time about the historic baseball game.

H/ BICENTENNIAL GALA

Maria T reported on several planning meetings headed by Chris Greig. Tickets are available at <https://givebutter.com/200years>.

I/ CARES FAMILY DAY/DUCK RACE SUBCOMMITTEE 8/6 – 8/7

Pam Green & Maria S-G reported on their meetings with CARES. The committee's role is as follows:

- Tuesday night: Movie night. (No cake for 10,000.)
- Wednesday: Petting zoo/MSU Tollgate, sponsored by Cromwell Chiropractic. Fishing for pennies, sponsored by LOC. FH fire dept relay or obstacle course. (No \$250 fee.)

The committee thanked Maria S-G for hosting the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 9:28pm.

Next meeting: June 25, 7pm

-submitted by Maria Taylor