



## FARMINGTON BICENTENNIAL TASK FORCE

March 26, 2024

7 PM – City Hall

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

Committee members absent: Chris Halas, Micki Skrzycki

Others present: Walt Gajewski, Peggy Castine, farmers market bicentennial subcommittee members, Carl Johnson

Chairperson Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

### A/ FARMERS MARKET

#### 1. Farmington's Bicentennial Comes to the Farmers Market - Peggy Castine

Peggy presented on behalf of the farmers market bicentennial subcommittee. She proposed a presentation series at the market, starting June (4 months' worth). Plans a new poster/map each week: topics include pre-settler, Underground Railroad, Civil War, etc. Other activities to include: Farmington history coloring sheets, Underground Railroad reenactor, old-fashioned toys including cornhusk doll-making, 1824 Farmhouse Ale tasting, apple dessert contest with recipes available. Walkabouts group planning history theme this year: historical homes, people, cemeteries, with particular focus on historic homes in the neighborhood. Logo for bicentennial programming at market will be an apple (design work included as part of market budget). Bicentennial Task Force is invited to have a booth and sell merch, and promote bicentennial events at info booth. Full report is attached at end of minutes.

Cost estimate: \$1,300 total. Walt is requesting support from bicentennial budget to cover. He would be glad to come back throughout the year and provide updates. Committee to put market on agenda for May meeting.

Sean to confirm Walt is printing logo on jute bags. Committee had budgeted \$2,000 for jute bags; that will more than cover funding market activities instead. Committee to review our budget and make official motion on funding market activities; straw poll says yes.

Courtney: Suggested including QR codes with displays.

Pam: Suggested wax museum (5<sup>th</sup> graders) at market to reenact historical figures. Cheryl Blau volunteered to assist — worked on similar project with Jewish Historical Society of Michigan — and suggested Dave Clappison and David Hales for the market bicentennial volunteer group.

#### 2. Merch booth Days: LNO, Opening Day, when else?

Ladies Night Out: Thursday April 18. Alexander Steward has added us to the roster. Setup 4pm, open 5-9. Booth shifts: 4-6:30 Sean, Courtney, Maria T. 6:30-9 Maria S-G and Pam.

Prep work: Update online spreadsheet for tracking sales. Create promotional posts for DDA (Maria T), get credit card reader (Sean), get hotspot from library (Maria S-G).

Courtney: Suggested highlighting Farmington women as part of display — maybe the Ladies Literary group photo.

Farmers Market: Opening day Saturday May 4. Booth shifts: 8:30-11 Sean and Jill, 11-2 Pam and friend.

Committee discussed the balance between having presence at market and burning out volunteers with weekly setup/takedown. Decided to hit the market's big days and see how many people actually stop by our booth. Upcoming dates where we'll have booth at market: June 8 (Warnerettes), July 6 (Underground Railroad).

3. Walt ask: Move our banners to allow for his market banners around Riley Park?

Additional brackets are available. Committee will use them to relocate bicentennial banners upon Walt's final determination.

#### B/ TOAST TO FARMINGTON REVIEW

Sean thanked the group, especially Carl for design work. It was noted that businesses were packed that evening, even though it was a cold, rainy night.

#### C/ MERCH UPDATE AND PLAN

1. Plan and instructions for payments from merchants

Sean will talk to Chris Weber about how to cash out merchants. Proceeds from pint glasses are being split with businesses; proceeds from apparel are not being split.

2. Current inventory and plan for summer apparel

Carl is working on new designs — will have those firmed up by next meeting. Committee to sell current merch at Ladies Night (sweatshirts, short-sleeve tees, still plenty available).

#### D/ GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS

1. Finding sponsor (\$16k)

Goal: Most cupcakes frosted in one place (200). Kitchen Creations is willing to host event and provide cupcakes, but cost for business is \$16,000, according to Guinness Book. This was originally to be part of Ladies Night, but timing/funding is prohibitive. Maria T to call Julie Law and ask about sponsorships, bundling it into Founders Festival.

#### E/TIMELINE/PROMENADE PROJECT

1. Update

Carl to begin designing in April, production/install in May. Kate Knight is still working with property owner; she advises they should be the one lining up electrical work.

As part of promotions, committee to hold unveiling event at Art On the Grand and invite Oakland County Commissioners, since the project has been made possible by County funding. Maria T suggested making it the official Art On the Grand afterparty. Sean to ask DDA to participate and for advice on serving drinks. Carl suggested up-lighting as well as Edison lights overhead (the kind you get from Costco) if professional electrical can't be secured in time for event.

Event ideas: Wine in alley, ribbon cutting, Northville stomp team, hire one of Scott's Out Front performers, ask Meadows to provide wine.

## 2. Art Design

Design idea: 4 sections, 4x10, include County logo. Photos will be presented chronologically with years corresponding to major dates in Farmington history. The heat transfer panels are guaranteed to last 1-2 years, but similar project in Northville is going strong 10 years in.

## F/ART ON THE GRAND

### 1. Discussion and Plans

Postcards To Farmington booth: We will need sharpies for postcard writing, poster with directions, postcards, volunteers to staff booth. Pam to reach out to Rachel Timlin to confirm booth, price-check fine-point sharpies. Carl to mock up poster and postcards for next meeting.

Chalk art in the streets: Would this be something the Arts Commission would like to take on? Maria T to check.

"200" floral arrangement at Masonic Park: Maria S-G to ask Springbrook.

## G/FOUNDERS FESTIVAL

### 1. Discussion and Plans

Parade: Ideas include Grand Marshal/oldest resident, old fire trucks. Float: Committee decided this project needs to be outsourced. Pam will reach out to Leslie (art teacher) to see if there's interest in creating float. NOTE: We also need a bicentennial banner to lead off the parade. Maria T to talk to Julie Law and mayor, then report back to Pam who will call FH chief about fire trucks.

Bingo: FH Parks and Rec will provide table/chairs and tent at no cost if we ask. Bicentennial merch as bingo prizes? Maria S-G will reach out to PTA to confirm interest.

Historic baseball game: After discussion of including this as part of CARES event, it was decided to keep this as part of Founders Festival. Maria T to reach back out and confirm interest with baseball team manager.

#### H/ CARES FAMILY DAY/DUCK RACE SUBCOMMITTEE

1. Updates and Next Steps – Pam Green

Pam and Maria S-G reported back from the subcommittee. Talks with CARES are still in progress.

Movie night in park: Maria S-G looking into grant funding for screen, projector. Would Scott Freeman like to sell popcorn that night?

CARES potentially interested in sponsoring light show. Pam to check back on that.

#### I/ THEN-AND-NOW APP

1. Updates

Maria T. pitched app to SiFi Networks; waiting to hear back. Maria S-G and Pam to reach out to Bosch and CARES for additional potential sponsors.

#### J/ BICENTENNIAL GALA

1. Updates

Maria T to get in touch with Chris Greig for status report.

#### K/HISTORICAL

1. Farmington Fridays – Maria T continuing series
2. Brian Golden History Video Series – Committee suggests doing this series in Ken Burns style with historical photos (no narrator in view), voiceover, background music, and any sound effects (horses, etc.). Chris to convey recommendations to Brian.

#### L/ GREAT FARMINGTON CLEANUP

1. Request made to donate raffle prize. Committee will donate beanie hat, 2 pint glasses, 2 “1824” ales, and a selection of wooden cutouts.

#### M/ OTHER

Pam: Received feedback that much of celebration is downtown-centric — do we want to coordinate a Flanders Park food truck rally? Committee agreed in principle but unsure whether that’s our role. Discussion ensued about the food truck ordinance.

Courtney: Suggested we compile QR codes for Farmington’s green historic markers. Do we have a map of the markers?

Jill: Suggested we replicate and sell old maps

Sean adjourned the meeting at 9:36pm.

Next meeting: April 23, 7pm at City Hall.

March 26, 2024



## *Farmington's Bicentennial Comes to the Farmers Market*

Farmington's history is all around us – you just have to know where to look. This summer the Farmers Market will make that history easier to find through a season-long bicentennial celebration.

This as-yet-unnamed weekly project, brainstormed by Market volunteers, will share the story of a small Quaker settlement near three Native American trails that grew into a bustling farm town and important player in the growth of southeast Michigan. And it seems appropriate that the current Farmers Market help tell the story since it was farmers who founded Farmington.

The project will be multi-media, or at least as multi-media as a farmers market can get. Each week a display near the southwest entrance will offer maps, old photos and other information on Farmington's beginnings and growth.

And we won't limit the storytelling to reprints:

- June 8 – Farmington's Warnerettes will march as suffragettes in honor of three-term Gov. Fred Warner, a major player on the local and state levels with his advocacy for railroad regulations and women's right to vote.
- June 22 – The Redford Chapter of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will demonstrate reels – dances that were part of colonial social life in the early 1800s.
- July 6 – Actress Madelyn Porter will bring to life Farmington's role in the Underground Railroad by portraying Maddie, an escaped slave who has fled to Farmington to find help.
- July 6 – The Peace Jubilee Brass Band, from the Civil War era, will perform in the morning.

We'll tell the story of the area's agriculture, especially the role played by apples, which were vital to the the economy. Apples remain an important crop in the region – just ask any of our farmers who bring their finest to market starting in late summer. We will conduct a Best Apple Dessert contest in August, and in September the Kids POP! Club will be All About Apples.

The August POP! Club will also feature a bicentennial spin by talking about the Native American growing method called the Three Sisters in which corn, beans and squash were planted together to the benefit of all three.

We'll have a Bicentennial project for everyone with ready-to-color prints of noteworthy buildings (and crayons). We'll recreate the fun part of life two centuries ago by offering old-time crafts and games for kids of all ages. Come make a corn husk doll or learn how to weave. Or compete in a potato sack race, roll barrel hoops across Riley Park or use a GeeHaw Shimmy Diddle stick.

All of this is part of the great story Farmington has to tell, and we think the Farmers Market provides the perfect stage to tell it. See you at the Market!