

Washburn Life
(Washburn Area Improvement Association)

Special Meeting Minutes
(Official)

Thursday, March 21, 2024 (12:00 pm)

Location: Mike Nelson Building (611 Main Ave)

Board Members Present: Rashel Crowell/ Donna Sommer/ Mark Lelm/ Michele Jacobson/Richard Perkerewicz

Board Members Not Present: Rachel Retterath/Alyson Teigen/Staci Berube/Rhonda Johnson

Others Present: Kamile Moderegger

Meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm by President Rashel Crowell.

Business:

1. **Riverboat Days:** Donna presented a letter from the Riverboat Days Committee requesting sponsorship for the event. Previous years we had donated \$5,000 in 2022 for a sound system and gave \$3,000 in 2023. They have not approached us for any special needs. Mark moved to donate \$1,000 and be a Gold Sponsor. 2nd by Richard. During the discussion it was noted that if there is a special need, the group could come to a meeting and request more funds. **Motion Carried.**
2. **Riverboat Days Touch a Truck:** Rashel had discussed having a Touch a Truck Event in conjunction with Riverboat Days. This would be on Saturday, June 1. Michele moved for Washburn Life to sponsor and run the project. Mark 2nd. **Motion Carried.** A committee will be formed at the next regular meeting.
3. **Policy and Bylaws.** Rashel would like to see some more work done on the Policy and bylaws to address some items that have come up, such as duties of committees and how concerns from members should be addressed. Also, who should speak for the group. Some suggestions were for the Community Coordinator to be the reference person for any concerns and for minutes to be sent soon after the meeting instead of right before the next meeting so there is more awareness of what is going on. Donna moved to form a committee at the next regular meeting. Richard 2nd. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Washburn Life/Leader News Article:** Discussion was held on the recent Leader News article that addressed the City deciding not to join Washburn Life this year. It is felt that the article possibly put Washburn Life in a negative light. It appears that not all the information from the meeting was in the article as it was written from the streaming and not everything was heard. The issue that the city had was that there wasn't a lot of clear communication between the two groups. Washburn Life has invited the city commissioners to attend meetings numerous times with no attendance. We have also attended their meetings but

are not allowed to speak. It is felt that possibly the communication problem is on their end and not ours. Donna moved that we should take the high road and not respond to the Leader News article and instead try to get more PR on the things we do such as the BND Buydowns, First Dollars, and upcoming projects. Michele 2nd. **Motion Carried.**

5. **Light Up Washburn:** Rashel discussed where things were with the project. Now that the ground is thawed, it will be difficult to get heavy equipment, like boom trucks into the park to wrap the higher trees. Will try to do some lower lighting over the summer but will be until after freeze in the fall that the tall work will be done. A suggestion was made to put an article in the paper to let the residents know about this.
6. **NDSU Extension** – Kamile introduced herself as a newer extension agent, working with Sarah Bedgar who has been to some of our meetings. She noted that the Rural Resiliency event will now be in the fall instead of April due to the availability of the speaker. Washburn Life did donate to this event. She also briefly highlighted some upcoming projects they are doing such as My First Business Babysitting Clinic for youth ages 11-14 on May 18 and the Stop the Bleed program.
7. **Members and contributing to their growth** – Table to the next meeting.

Next Meeting: April 9th at 12:00 pm at **City Hall**

Adjournment: A meeting was adjourned by Pres. Rashel at 1:00 pm.

Donna Sommer

Minutes submitted 3/28/2024.

Approved 4/9/2024