

Myerstown, PA
Tuesday, September 26, 2017

President Bryan L. Rittle opened the public workshop session at 6:35 p.m., on Tuesday, September 26, 2017. The session was held in the auditorium of the Myerstown Community Center, 101 S. Railroad Street, Myerstown, PA 17067.

Present were: President Bryan L. Rittle, President Pro Tem Park W. Haverstick, II, Councilmember Ronald Ream, Mayor Gloria R. Ebling, Economic Development Officer Janelle Mendoff and Deputy Secretary Lisa A. Brubaker.

No minutes of past meetings were presented for approval at this public meeting and no action was taken on any minutes.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the President proceeded to the order of the business:

The public meeting was held to discuss the Sestercentennial Celebration. The Borough will commemorate its 250th Anniversary in 2018. President Rittle stated the MAN (Myerstown Activity Network) Group was asked to take the lead, but it has been expressed by different organizations and residents that they may want to be involved as well.

President Rittle asked Economic Development Officer Janelle Mendoff to introduce herself and give any details. Economic Development Officer Janelle Mendoff stated example boards are located on each side of the room with posters of events from other municipalities. The Borough is also looking to see if there is any interest to join the steering committee or sub-committees. Janelle further explained in detail a few events that were shown as examples that other municipalities had done.

President Rittle opened the floor for public comments:

Thomas Maniello – Public Relations for StoneRidge Retirement Living pitched the idea of lunching around Thanksgiving, it would be a nice way to present “giving thanks for the past 250 years of Myerstown”. He also pitched a few event ideas: reaching out to the Allen Theater to have a few Myerstown specials or have an outdoor movie night at a park, raffles at businesses throughout Myerstown, StoneRidge has a theater that seats 350 people so an event could be held there, their Meier Room could host a catered gala. Tom also offered to create a logo. He pitched the idea to sell merchandise, including license plates. Tom also said the steering committee should reach out to local churches, schools and businesses. A fundraiser idea is to have the local restaurant have select days that if you tell them you are with the Sestercentennial a portion of your bill will be donated to the events. Tom also recommended contacting the Senator to get them involved.

Ellen Kramer – Discussed the book she is writing as well as presented the events the MAN group have been planning: 5k race, Bike shop owner wants to have a family bike event, parade, fireworks, and a car show. Ellen also pitched her own idea of having a house tour, a woman she knows said she would open her house to visitors to walk through. She said reaching out to banks and churches would be a good idea to get them to publicize events.

Donald Brown – Would like to see an event each month, starting at the New Year’s Eve Drop. Donald said there should be a tree dedication ceremony on Feb. 5, 2018 as it will be the anniversary Myerstown became a borough. Harold Mohn wrote a poem for the Bicentennial History Book and Donald asked him to write another for the Sestercentennial. Donald would read it on behalf of him at any ceremony. Donald is creating 12 postcards of Myerstown and would like to include the 250th logo on them. Stores in town will be approached to sell the series.

Elizabeth Ramsey stated better communication and publicizing on events, she also was involved in the last car show and would be willing to help and share any information from that event.

Michael Hibshman – 225th Celebration Chairman, stated we should have started the planning 6 months ago, thinks there should be a community picnic (reach out to Kutztown bologna for hot dogs), the

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Rotary Club could have a banquet at the Lantern Lodge, have a church service, and fireworks. He recommends reaching out to the Reading Phillies to have an Anniversary Night where tickets are given to Myerstown community members. Michael will also bring examples from 225th celebration to the next meeting.

Steve Goodhue stated businesses are always look for ways to support the community and is good exposure for the business. He would be honored to help.

John Zimmerman – Postal Carrier stated the Post Office could place a display on their counter. The carriers could wear pins or t-shirts on their routes to help publicize the celebration. The banners should be redone with celebratory logo. Direct mailers would be a good idea to send out the event calendar.

Char Newswanger – Char Co. is heading the new branding for Myerstown and explained the vision.

David Zimmerman stated it is Isaac Meier 50th anniversary in 2018 as well.

Fan Enck pitched hosting a gun show to display 250 years of firearms and the clothing with the history. Encks Gun Barn will be having a float in this year's holiday parade and would decorate their float displaying the changes of firearms and the clothing worn over time.

Goodwill Fire Company's 150th anniversary is next year and would like to join celebration.

General comments: Ask man group to be at the next meeting, First Aid Unit to have a wellness day, contact Bayer now about the fireworks, contact businesses for sponsorship of events, Heritage Center open for 2018.

The President asked if there were any additional comments for the good of the borough. Seeing none, the workshop meeting ended at 7:44 p.m. All those in favor: Motion unanimously carried.

Lisa A. Brubaker,
Deputy Secretary

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