

**Minutes from February 27, 2012, 7:30pm Rhythm & Ribs and NCF Meeting  
Held at Utica High School Cafeteria**

**R&R Announcements/Decisions**

- Next meeting date will be: Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:30p.m. in the high school cafeteria
- Here are decisions regarding the event. These will remain part of each minutes document so we do not re-hash these decisions in subsequent meetings:
  - R&R will be a 1 Day event this year, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at the Hartford Fairgrounds and camping Friday and Saturday night will be accommodated
  - The Fairgrounds should be available for the R&R event on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in June each year
  - Gates will open Saturday at 8:00 a.m. and the event will close down at midnight Saturday
  - The To-Be-Named 5K Obstacle Course Run will be held Saturday morning (June 16<sup>th</sup>) at the Fairgrounds and registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. (special gate will be open for racers); the first heat will begin at 9:00a.m.
  - R&R Admission price will be \$10 per person (5 & Under are free); No fee will be charged for parking
  - No food tickets will be required for purchasing food - cash only. Food vendors and non-food vendors will pay a flat rate for their spot for the day. Food vendors may sell beverages.
- Corrections from last month's minutes – The Poker Run will be Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, NOT the 18<sup>th</sup> as mistakenly reported in the minutes.
- Treasurer's Report – Peg Carpenter
  - Previous Account Balance \$29,825.06
  - Deposit - Aetna Contributions \$300 in the name of Farrah Cooperider
  - Laurie Londot will be asked if the Appreciation Committee will send a thank you letter to Farrah
  - Deposit - Spirit Pump Contributions \$580
  - Interest \$1.28
  - Current Balance \$30,706.34
- To-Be-Named 5K Obstacle Course Run – Julie VanWey & Nancy Welu
  - Julie reviewed several 'obstacles' that are being considered for inclusion in the run (dodging hanging toilet seats, climbing pyramid of round hay bales, tossing a sock filled with corn into a toilet bowl, crawling through mud, searching for a horse shoe in a baby pool filled with baked beans... are all under consideration – this is a partial list).
  - An obstacle will be placed roughly each quarter mile for a total of about 12 obstacles.
  - Suggestion for teams and fees are teams of 4 at \$100 per team; a low cost participant packet of goodies will be given to each entrant; low cost 'awards' for winners will be given
  - We will need to consult with Marston Insurance to determine if any additional coverage must be included in the policy for the event
  - It was suggested a waiver form be developed in the next 30 days to put on the web site as part of registration (maybe we could copy the Warrior Run waiver)

- It was suggested the details for the race need to be in place by April 1<sup>st</sup> for marketing materials development
- There will be at least 2 (possibly 4) separate 'flyers/posters' developed; one highlighting the run and outlining the rest of R&R; and another highlighting R&R and outlining the run and other activities that day – we may need 4 versions (The 5K Obstacle Run/R&R; The Poker Run/R&R; The WW2 Displays/R&R; and R&R/Everything else)
- Marketing & Advertising – No lead identified at this time
  - We are in need of a person to spear head marketing and advertising
  - The group in attendance agreed we may be willing to pay someone to perform this role
  - Please use your contacts to identify potential volunteer or paid candidates
  - Marketing and advertising needs to begin no later than April 1<sup>st</sup> for the event (i.e. flyers, mailings, print and radio ads, etc... must begin by this date)
- Food Vendors – John Wolfe
  - John has already been in contact with food vendors from last year; some may have a conflict with the new date
  - He will identify food vendors during the month of March and will validate the flat fee approach and amount previously discussed (\$250) will be appropriate
  - John will work with the non-food vendor team (Bobbi Martinsen and Deanne Shaw) to sprinkle in specialty food vendors in the non-food vendor area and with the Kid Zone leader, Carrie Hoffer-Bates to add a 'kid friendly' vendor or two (e.g. hot dog stand?)
  - We confirmed during John's update that the last band will go on at 10:00p.m. and the general admission gates will open at 8:00 a.m.
  - Camping folks will pay the \$10 fee per person above and beyond their camp site fee
  - Lori Stradley will reach out to the Northridge Boosters to offer them the opportunity to serve breakfast again
- American Freedom Lodge & WWII Vintage Equipment - Rob Pierpont & Jeff Moseley
  - Rob offered that the bow shoot was not going to be practical due to the need for too much brush clearing at the fairgrounds. He introduced Jeff Moseley from Marysville to discuss the World War II artillery, displays and vendors who would like to attend R&R this year.
  - Jeff discussed the WWII weapons (e.g. tanks, machine guns, cannons, etc..) and the displays that the group of WWII enthusiasts he is associated with would like to bring to the fairgrounds to have on display the day of the R&R. Jeff said there are many interested individuals due to the central nature of Croton, Ohio. Members of their group travel from all over the country to share their knowledge of the artillery and to pay tribute to veterans, particularly WWII. The group agreed we would love to have members of their group participate in our event, and while there are many details to be worked out, Jeff will be reaching out to confirm which members and what displays will be available for us that day.
  - Jeff's group will travel in on Friday, set up an actual WWII replica 'encampment' and bring their memorabilia for the display. An obstacle course allowing children to

participate will also be established. The group has their own liability insurance, and Gary will be checking with the fairgrounds to see if the group has permission to fire 'blanks' during their demonstrations. No live ammo will be present. A couple of the participants may bring military related items to sell. It was agreed these folks would not be charged a vendor fee as they are expected to bring in significant additional crowds to the event itself.

- Once Jeff finalizes details on what they will be bringing to the event, he will let us know so we can properly advertise this aspect of the day. Several veterans groups have expressed an interest in participating (Ohio Fallen Heroes Memorial from Sunbury, several German artillery enthusiasts, Viet Nam War Veterans groups; to name a few).
- Non Food Vendors – Bobbi Martinsen and Deanne Shaw
  - Bobbi and Deanne have been in contact with hundreds of non-food vendors.
  - The non-food vendor fees they are considering are \$50 for a spot with electric and \$40 for a spot without electric.
  - They would like to place vendors in the building across from the grand stand, under/inside the grandstand, and need to see the inside of each to ensure they will work for their non-food vendors. An alternative may be to use the Commerce building but it is so far away, they would prefer not to use this building.
  - Their budget will be \$60 for printing and copying.
- Kid Zone – Carrie Hoffer-Bates
  - Carrie has made dozens of contacts for this year's event (examples: Columbus Zoo, the Wilds, Newark's K-9 Unit, C-Tec, Karaoke, Dance Groups, to name a few). Several have indicated it's too far out to commit (ironically), but she continues to reach out and stay in touch with the groups she is working with to bring into the 'zone'.
  - There will be sports games again, and she is working on activities to appeal to girls and young teens.
  - Her budget is \$750 and she hopes to stay well below that amount. Part of that will likely go towards blow up rentals.
  - Originally, the thought was to have some of the antique military equipment displayed in the Kid Zone, but this area of the fairgrounds may be too small to accommodate their displays.
- Parking, Security and Trash – Tom Cooper
  - Last year's trash expense was \$325
  - Tom reminded us of other expenses to consider/decide upon – Sherriff (or other security fees); restroom items (towels, toilet paper, soap, etc...) – this will be handled as part of the contract discussion by Gary Stradley; tents and ice truck.
  - Tom will contact the scooter company to see if they would like to provide scooter rentals for the day and offer a portion of the rental proceeds to the foundation
- Fairgrounds Rental Agreement – Gary Stradley
  - All visits and inquiries to the fair should be made through Gary so the fair is not inundated with visits and requests
  - Gary suggested he may know someone to be in charge of the beer garden

- Gary will handle the contract negotiations and will pass along the requests for what buildings and equipment we will need that weekend
- We must return all equipment to the proper location (e.g. picnic tables and benches)
- Camping – Cathy Holton (not present)
  - No updates as Cathy was not present, fees need to be set and waiver form re-visited; all camping visitors must buy the \$10 admission (5 & under are free)

### **NFCF Meeting - Announcements/Decisions**

- We voted to approve the \$200 deposit for the fairgrounds. Julie made the motion, Peggy seconded the motion and all officers approved the expense.
- Pam and Peg will draft sponsorship packages for the 2012-13 school year in the next two weeks. It was agreed these packages will remove references to: fall and winter sports programs, signs for the athletic booster golf outing and the basketball tournament, the music booster sponsorships, and any other groups sponsorship-related materials. This is because some of these groups are expecting payment for the sponsors associated with the NFCF sponsorships. Since the effort to consolidate sponsorships is not fully backed by all groups, the NFCF sponsorships will eliminate them from our packages.
- Pam will work with Gary to see if we can get rolling on the ground-breaking for the Victory Garden.
- Cathy Holton has volunteered to spear head the Kroger Cares program.
- Treasurer’s report included above. Peggy asked if someone could identify the \$390 deposit made on November 4<sup>th</sup> into the foundation’s account. Gary will check with Debbie to see if she made the deposit.
- Julie will ask Brenda Dush to print to VIP Parking signs for us because there were 2 spaces ‘sold’ during the silent auction and the signs for these spaces were never put up. She will then work with Mr. Bowman to get them put up and inform the folks who purchased them that they can be used throughout next year since they were not put up for this year’s fall and winter sports seasons.
- 3 recommendations were discussed and formally presented to the school board from the foundation. The recommendations we have asked the board to consider during their work session are:

#### **Recommendation 1: Community Service Graduation Requirement Pilot Program for 2012-13 School Year**

- Begin Pilot Program for 20 to 25 High School Seniors to Perform 5 to 8 Hours Community Service
- Identify “In-School” Sponsor to Administer Program (Possible Candidates: Administrators, Guidance Counselor, Work Program Administrator)
- Consider incentives for completion: .25 (or some amount) of high school credit, recognition during graduation for all students performing the required hours, recognizing students at a banquet sponsored by NFCF - awarding certificates, highlighting ‘Service of the Year’.
- Apply lessons learned from Pilot Program and Implement for all Students 2013-14 School Year

Recommendation 2: Create Awareness of NCFI Intention to Form “Community Volunteer Organization Committee”

- NCFI will seek to form a Committee of Volunteers who will be responsible to identify volunteers to help defray costs associated with paid positions that support extra-curricular activities today
- This committee would serve as the clearing house for all community volunteers who wish to assist the district. These could be volunteers for any purpose (reading tutors, clinic volunteers, etc....). This group would work with the building administrators, Activities Director, and current booster/PTO organizations to funnel volunteers to these groups as needed.

Recommendation 3: The Board Establish a Statement Regarding Ongoing Support for Extra-Curricular Activities by March 15<sup>th</sup>; And a Strategy for Funding By April 15<sup>th</sup>

- NCFI would like to request the Board issue a formal statement to the community at the March board meeting, stating the district’s intention to maintain the Extra-curricular programs for the 2012-13 school year. Issuing this statement will stop rumors and recognize the importance of North Fork’s ability to compete with surrounding school districts by assuring its constituents that these programs will remain intact. In addition, the statement recognizes the importance of the role extra-curricular activities play as part of the overall educational experience.
- NCFI would like to recommend a formal work session between board members (or a subset delegated by the board to represent the entire board) and NCFI members (officers and an additional 1 to 3 NCFI member/volunteers) to participate in a brainstorming session regarding ways to fund extra-curricular activities. Additional participants for this session could include Administrators, District Treasurer, Booster Members (athletic/music), or other supplemental contract holders. The goal of the session would be to have a strategy for funding extra-curricular activities in place by no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>.