Vergennes Partnership Board Meeting Minutes – 7/19/2017
Kennedy Brothers – 8:30 AM.

Members present: Renny P., Julie B, Amy B., Jen R., Scott G., Shanon A.,

Guests present: Bob F. & John P.

Meeting started at 8:39 am.

Approve Meeting Minutes of Previous Meeting – Motion made by J.R.
Seconded by R.P.

Hired Hand Tax Credit Application:

A.B. reported that once a year we can apply for local businesses in our downtown district that have made improvements. We did this in 2016 and we did not get awarded any tax credits. She's going to apply again since the rules allow resubmission if within a one year period of the completion of the improvements. The Downtown board is scheduled to make their decisions on whom to award tax credits by the end of July.

VTrans Bicycle & Pedestrian Grant Application:

R.P. reported that each year the State offers small to large applications to be submitted for Bicycle & Pedestrian safety projects. R.P is helping the City of Vergennes apply for funding for 5 flashing beacons to be positioned around high traffic areas in the downtown of Vergennes. The project is a $ 75,000 project. It's a 50% matching grant of which the City of Vergennes is prepared to match the necessary funds. In other words City Council has voted and approved this expenditure. Grant awards should be known in a couple of months.

Eat on the Green Festival:

A.B. reported that planning for the event is ongoing. The three major restaurants in town are doing the planning. Rebecca Rey is the appointed coordinator. A.B. has offered to help get some corporate sponsorships for the fundraiser. The radio station WVTK 92.1 will be holding a remote on the park the day of the event. The cost of the remote is $ 500. The radio station will be reaching out to local businesses to sell ad spots for this event. Bruce & Hobbs will be handling the remote. A.B. confirmed that the VP role is to handle the funds for the event. J.R. to help this committee form a budget for the event. The event is Sept. 30th. A.B. suggested that this committee get volunteers organized from each non-profit that will benefit from the event proceeds. The next committee meeting will be held on 7/26/17 4 pm. at the Antidote. S.G. & S.A. will both attend the meeting to give some advice on logistical organizational needs to make the event successful.

VP Fashion Show Fundraiser:

R.P. reported that a few board members have talked about a possible new fundraiser. He feels that our board will need to make a decision as to accepting this new fundraiser before proceeding. A.B. reported that some of our existing board members already have experience doing this type of event. R.P. asked how much money we could make with the event. A.B feels that this event would need to bring in $2,000 to be worthy of consideration. J.B. likes the idea of the event which could help support our local stores. She feels this event does support our mission. No decision made by the board this month. Not enough board members present and not enough information on the event.

Change Board Meeting Dates:

R.P. reported a concern for lack of board member attendance during the summer months. We don't have enough board members in attendance to make decisions which require a quorum. J.B. suggested we use Doodle to get members to give feedback on the best possible meeting date. S.A. suggested we use Outlook

calendar which sends out invites to desired attendees. We know that S.A., M.G., B.B. has conflicts on certain days. A.B. will send out a survey and we'll pin down a day that works for the majority of the board.

Financials:

A.B. reported that we received our full funding from the City of Vergennes. It was a unanimous board vote. A total of $ 15,000 of which $7,500 will come from the City and the other $7,500 from the water tower fund. Congrats to A.B. & Danelle B. for their efforts at the last City Council meeting giving the council an update on our efforts. Also a big thank you to the board members that attended the meeting to show support for the VP. R.P. advised no formal report for the financials at this time, there's really nothing to report. We have $ 25,000 in our bank account.

Other:

Bob F. reported that his tenant Shacksbury Cider has opened their new tasting room which will be open during the next Farmers Market.

J.B. suggested that we do a Front Porch Forum post to help promote this new business along with a new tab on our VP website for the business.

A.B. reported that on June 5th in a meeting with Danelle B. and the Economic Committee it was suggested that we need to promote the VP web site with monthly posts. They feel we need to spend money on doing this work to keep us moving forward. A.B. advised that we don't have a line item in our budget for this type of expenditure but she feels this is very important for us to do. We should have a communications budget. We need a plan and have the ability to track things to promote our video and the 36 hour piece. No decision made on this topic.

We also talked briefly about getting our signage out for the free downtown Wi-Fi.

Next Meeting – Wed. Aug. 16th

End Time: 9:45:06 am.

Word Count – 25,317