

**THE VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES
4th OF JULY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 9, 2025**

In Attendance: Craig Kuehne Linda Scheck
Ben Gibbs
Amy Decker
Pawel Sienko

Excused: Alicia Guerrero
Mayor Bill McLeod

Village Staff: Dan O'Malley, Deputy Village Manager
Jon Pape – Assistant Village Manager
Sue Tompkins – Finance Department
Hallie Karle – Administrative Events Assistant – General Government
Kevin McGraw – Public Works Department
Mark Wondolkowski – Police Department
Michala Souronis – NOW Arena

CALL TO ORDER

Linda called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Craig moved to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2024, meeting, seconded by Ben, vote taken, motion carried, minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- **Site Layout**
Commission briefly discussed site plan from 2024. Agreed to keep the same basic set up. This would be refined once we detail activities for 2025.
- **Fireworks Contract**
Dan explained two choices presented by the fireworks company; keep the show the same length and see a 3% increase from last year or shorten the show by one minute to keep the same price as last year. After discussion Ben made a motion seconded by Craig to shorten the show by one minute and keep the price the same. Vote taken; motion passed.
- **Drone Contract**
Last year's drone show used 150 drones and produced a show that was 9 minutes. All agreed we want a longer show in 2025. Dan will discuss perhaps having two flights of drones. We prefer the option that uses 250 drones to produce better displays. Dan will speak with the drone company to see if we can increase the length of the show. Either way we need to lock down the contract as many other communities are looking to use drone shows in 2025. Pawel made a motion seconded by Amy to go to contract with UAV pros for an amount not to exceed \$40,000. Vote taken; motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FOOD VENDORS – Many more food trucks have expressed interest in participating in 2025. Linda will prepare a recap of interested food vendors and food truck operators for the commission to discuss at our February meeting.

VOLUNTEERS – No volunteers were needed in 2024 since we discontinued the dining tent. The volume of trash we remove is too heavy for youth volunteers so we will again rely on Public Works for assistance in trash removal.

SPONSORS – no updates

PARADE – Amy and Hallie report they have been busy reaching out to many groups to secure their participation in our parade. Jesse White Tumblers, South Shore Drill Team have been contracted. They have several costumed characters contracted to participate. They are still waiting for many responses. Commission thanked them for all their hard work. The Commission was asked to present parade theme ideas by the next meeting. Kevin will circulate some ideas for consideration to the Commission.

MARKETING – no updates

KIDS ZONE – Jodi has resigned but provided a spreadsheet of potential activity providers for 2025. Hallie reached out to the Park District Superintendent to invite their replacement for Jodi but they have not responded. Linda did attempt to contact all listed on the Kids Zone spreadsheet to determine if any have already been asked to provide a contract for services. Linda will again reach out to the Park District Board to determine who their representative will be.

ENTERTAINMENT – Ben suggested we contract Run Forest Run and Modern Day Romeos for July 4th. Davids House will open for 7th Heaven on July 5th. Craig made a motion seconded by Ben to approve the entertainment lineup as suggested. Vote taken; motion approved. Mark asked that we secure a designated parking area at Tate & Lyle for members of 7th Heaven who traditionally arrive late, separately and drive onto the fest site. This year we will have cement blockades in place so they will need to park at Tate & Lyle and walk in.

Ben suggested that we book the same staging and sound system companies we used in 2024. Craig made a motion seconded by Pawel to go to contract with the stage company for \$4,550 and with Diversified for sound system for \$5,675 (modest increase from 2024) Vote taken, motion passed..

BEER – Commission discussed the beer station adjacent to the Bingo with an exterior tent for sales.

PUBLIC WORKS – too early to report on detailed set up and generator/tent needs.

CARNIVAL/FIREWORKS/DRONE SHOW – No details from Carnival yet. They typically set up for 5 days, we have a multi-year contract so no changes to pricing. Fireworks and Drone Show were previously discussed under new business.

BINGO – Dan will reach out to the Lions but felt the addition of the satellite beer station adjacent to the bingo tent would be a welcome addition for the group.

POLICE – Mark reported that staffing for the drone show would duplicate staffing for the fireworks now that we know what a draw the drone show will be.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting will be on February 6, 2025, at 4:00pm at Village Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Craig made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ben, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Linda Scheck- Food /Volunteer Chair 4th of July Commission