

HUB COMMITTEE MEETING

August 9, 2017

In Attendance:

Members Present: Larry Chapman, Ann Smith, Bill Warren, Chairman, and Mayor Janet Winkler

Others Present: Town Manager, Rebecca Bentley, Dinner Theater Director, Keith Smith, Town Clerk, Tammy Swanson, HUB Manager, Janice Woodie, Dinner Theater Staff, Carolyn Icard and Joe Icard

Call to Order:

Chairman Bill Warren called the meeting to order, and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss catering for our dinner theater productions.

Report from Catering Survey:

Janice Woodie stated that she had received 4 bids for catering dinner theater, and she reviewed the results as follows.

- **Main Event** - \$13.50 per plate up to 216 people – will comp one night per weekend for cast up to 55 people
- **Hog Wild BBQ** - \$11.50 per plate – would comp cast every night and could also change up menu for the second weekend for cast.
- **Mooresridge Catering** - \$10.75 per plate - \$8.75 per plate for cast – would also comp one night each weekend for cast.
- **Fatz** - \$13.00 per plate – would be open to more options
- **Dan'l Boone** - \$10.50 per plate – regularly comps cast one night per weekend

Janice also presented the menus that were submitted with the bids.

Bill asked if Dan'l Boone is open to serving a different menu.

Janice stated that she did not ask Dan'l Boone to submit a bid; however, they do have different menu items to choose from for catering.

Bill asked for opinions and comments from the group.

Carolyn Icard stated that she has worked with dinner theater since its inception, and she wants to support the choice of Dan'l Boone for catering. She stated that in her opinion, they serve the guests and the cast members well, and we have to ask them for very little.

Rebecca commented the Dan'l Boone has been so, so dependable. She estimated that out of approximately 102 meals served over their time of catering dinner theater, there has been only one time they ran short on food – they accidentally left a pan of ham at the restaurant. Rebecca stated that when the survey was taken with our audiences about whether or not we should change caterers, 93% said they were satisfied with Dan'l Boone, 3% said Dan'l Boone was o.k., and 4% wanted to change.

Rebecca stated that of course the main thing we have to consider is the bottom line, and she discussed expenses involved with the play productions. She commented that with a 93% satisfaction rating, if we change from Dan'l Boone, we might lose customers, and we simply cannot afford to lose customers. Rebecca

August 9, 2017 HUB Committee Meeting

stated that she realizes we need to support Caldwell County; however, our plays do that by bringing people into the County.

Keith presented his opinion. He stated that as director, he oversees not only the artistic aspects of the productions but the financial aspects as well, and he believes changing from Dan'l Boone would definitely have a financial effect on the productions. Keith stated that some of the regular "theater goers" have told him they will not be returning if Dan'l Boone is not the caterer.

Larry Chapman stated that he believes the old saying, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it," applies here. Larry stated that he realizes we need to support Caldwell County; however, people seem to be satisfied with what we already have. Larry suggested that if we want to consider a change, it needs to be done for a smaller spring production rather than for a large fall production.

Joe Icard stated that he also supports the choice of Dan'l Boone, and he agrees with Larry that if a change is made, it should be done with a spring production and not in the fall.

Janet stated that she had not heard negative comments about Dan'l Boone; however, she would support change with a spring production rather than a fall production.

Ann Smith stated that she does not believe people are choosing whether or not to come to our dinner theaters based solely on the food. She stated that she has confidence in our productions. She added that she has heard numerous negative comments about us continuing to use Dan'l Boone, but she feels a change would probably be better in the spring. Ann commented that she would like for us to strongly consider Hog Wild – she has had their food and it is very good.

Bill Warren stated that he believes strongly that we should support local businesses. He stated that he knows of people who will not attend the plays because Dan'l Boone is the caterer. Bill stated that he loves the idea of supporting Hog Wild and he likes the bid they submitted. He does, however, understand that a fall production might not be the best time for a change to a new caterer. Bill stated that he is a business man, and he understands we need to look at the bottom line with every production. However, change is not always a bad thing – Hog Wild also has a following, and he would like for them to be considered to cater our next spring show.

Motion: (Ann Smith/Larry Chapman) to recommend that we keep Dan'l Boone as the caterer for the fall production of "Annie," and look at Hog Wild for doing the production next spring. Unanimously approved.

This recommendation will be considered by the full Board at the August 15th meeting.

Janet suggested that the caterers be notified of the decision by letter and by phone if necessary.

Discussion of Issues at HUB:

The Committee briefly discussed the following issues:

- **Drainage ditch behind the HUB** – Larry mentioned that the drainage ditch behind the HUB needs attention. Rebecca stated that she would remind Public Works to look at the problem.
- **Damage to sound panels from rain coming in windows** – Janice W. stated that water blew in the windows during a recent rain storm and damaged some of the sound panels in the auditorium area.
- **Damage to Amphitheater** – Rebecca stated that the amphitheater collapsed during that same rain storm. Rebecca stated that since it was built with grant funds, it will have to be repaired. She suggested that

August 9, 2017 HUB Committee Meeting

since the plan was to have plays at the amphitheater, the repairs be overseen by the HUB Committee. The Committee agreed.

- **Room in basement still not ready to rent** – Rebecca stated that we have someone interested in renting the old Karate room, but the room still needs work. She said that Public Works plans to do the repairs as time permits.

Report on "Silk Groove" Concert:

Bill stated that tickets are selling well for the Silk Groove concert.

Larry suggested that a few tables be set up for the concert since drinks are going to be sold.

Janice stated that she has not heard from "Just Roll With It" about the plans for serving alcohol, and she wanted to be sure they had all the permitting they needed from the State.

Bill stated that he would have Debbie Cloer from "Just Roll With It" contact Janice about the event.

Request from Caldwell Chamber – Leadership Program:

Janet stated that the Caldwell County Chamber of Commerce has asked that their Leadership Caldwell program be allowed to use the HUB on September 13th. The group will have a program and will also be having a meal. Janet commented that this is a good way to introduce new people to Hudson, and they have invited us to come if we would like to attend.

Motion: (Ann Smith/Larry Chapman) to support and partner with Leadership Caldwell as they requested. Unanimously approved.

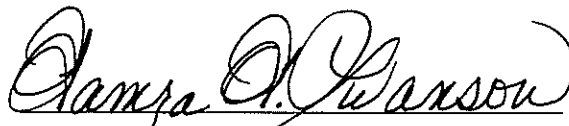
Offer of using HUB for Hosting WPCOG Meeting:

Rebecca suggested that we also offer use of the HUB for hosting a WPCOG meeting. Rebecca stated that we have not hosted an event for the COG in a long while, and she feels we should at least make the offer.

The Committee was in agreement with partnering with the COG for a meeting.

Adjournment:

Motion: (Larry Chapman/Ann Smith) to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously approved.



Tamra T. Swanson, Town Clerk