

**PRESENT:** Reggie St John, Lisa Morgan, Shantele Frie, Dennis Hartman, Mark Spohn, Keith Hudson, Betty Bissell, Kevin Morgan, & Sonya Morgan

The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Atlas Saloon Brewery. Discussion topics for the meeting included: Manitou Springs, Soda & Lithia Well Testing, Last Meeting Recap, Financial Report, Chairmen Appointments, Our Town Grant Update, Waterfest Update, Fundraising, and Additional Notes.

**1. Manitou Springs**

- a. An article was recently shared with the committee about Manitou Springs in Colorado. In this mineral water town, the springs run 24/7 and are outside for public consumption.
- b. Shantele will reach out to their city planner to discuss what regulations are in place to allow for free standing mineral springs access.

**2. Soda & Lithia Well Testing**

- a. In early February, a sample was collected and submitted from the soda bicarbonate well to the Clay County Public Health Center. The results were inconclusive.
- b. A stronger sump pump is needed to get an appropriate reading/test completed. Per Keith Hudson's motion, the group moved to purchase a sump pump – up to \$2,000.
  - i. Keith will present purchase and rental options at the next meeting.

**3. Last Meeting Recap**

- a. A recap of the last FOTW meeting was given for those new to the group.
  - i. In 2023, the FOTW received a quote from BWP for \$17k to do a complete workup on one of the soda wells behind the Hall of Waters.
  - ii. Kevin & Sonya Morgan purchased 100 nitrate testing kits for the FOTW to determine which wells in town are safe to proceed with inspections.
    - 1. Lisa is connecting with TR to locate the nitrate tests.
  - iii. Legislation states the FOTW cannot use city money for our projects.

**4. Financial Report**

- a. The current total balance for the FOTW is \$8,241.63
  - i. \$7,741.63 in an account under the Downtown Excelsior Partnership, Inc.
  - ii. \$500 in an account under the Excelsior Springs Foundation
- b. The committee discussed moving all funds under the Excelsior Springs Foundation and ultimately decided to leave money where it currently resides in both accounts.

**5. Chairmen Appointments**

- a. The following assignments were determined:
  - i. Sonya Morgan – Chair
  - ii. Dennis Hartman – Vice Chair
  - iii. Sam Gilmore – Secretary

iv. Betty Bissel – Treasurer

## **6. Our Town Grant Update**

- a. The Our Town Grant was submitted in 2023. Through this grant, the FOTW requested enough funds to cover the BWP fees associated for both Soda and Lithia well inspections.

## **7. Waterfest Update**

- a. Anistacia Barrak-Barber, a water sommelier, was planning on attending Waterfest to help generate excitement and to educate people about our mineral waters. Her plan was to ask her water sommelier contacts to donate mineral waters from across the world for people to sample at Waterfest. Since then, she has requested FOTW pay for her transportation to Excelsior Springs for the event.
  - i. The mineral water tasting event will no longer be occurring at Waterfest.
- b. Shantele & Lisa have confirmed the FOTW booth. The booth will be shared with Olsen Studio
  - i. Shantele will be researching the duck for this year's event. Last year, booth attendees asked for a "Donation Per Duck".
    1. She and Lisa have been considering asking those who donate to complete a survey for our records.
  - ii. Save Our Springs wristbands will be available again this year. Lisa has stored the tablecloth and information trifolds as well.
  - iii. Sonya will generate a sign up for FOTW Committee members to work at the booth.
- c. Our Walking Wells Brochure needs to be updated before Waterfest.
  - i. Sam noted that visitors at the Hall of Waters have enjoyed learning about this map on their visits.

## **8. Fundraising**

- a. The Committee has set a fundraising goal of \$20,000. These funds would ideally go towards the restoration of 10 ES wells.
- b. Next meeting, Sam will bring a list of fundraiser ideas for the group to discuss.
- c. Shantele would like to see the FOTW participate in Walk-Tober.
  - i. Walking Wells Tour would be a great way to educate and involve people with the FOTW's mission while supporting another great cause.
- d. Bingo
  - i. Sam noted there may be a few legal issues to jump through with the Missouri Gaming Commission when hosting a Bingo Fundraiser.
  - ii. Shantele is going to connect with Mike Edwards regarding Bingo.

## **9. Additional Notes**

- a. Next meeting will be May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.
- b. People unable to make this meeting but are interested in partaking in the FOTW include:
  - i. Abigail Douglas
  - ii. Angela Snapp

iii. Linda Kay Davis