

FREETOWN PARADE & FIREWORKS COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 4, 2024 - 4:00pm

Community Room - Police Station

FREETOWN CLERK
REC'D APR 30 2024 AMB:LB

Present: Samantha Downs, Bob Gregory, Linda Remedis, Judy Gregory,
Pat Wilbur, Bob Adams, Ellen Lima, Karen Facchiano
Absent: Ashley Emery, Jean Fox, John Remedis, Amanda Farmer, Carlos Lopes
Guest: Chief Scott Rose

Minutes of the last meeting were received.

Sam passed out forms to use for nominating people for (P&F's) Freetown's Man & Woman of the Year. After some discussion, it was voted, and passed, to limit the contest in 2024 to Freetown Man and Woman of the Year (and not have Group of the Year). Sam will have a deadline for submitting entries prior to our June 6th meeting, so we can choose a winner then. The winners will be featured in our 4th of July parade. Sam will have the finalized form and time-line ready at our next meeting. The VFW's Voice of Democracy contest for high school students was also discussed. Once a winner has been selected at their April 21st meeting, they will be invited to ride in the parade. (We'll need to purchase magnetic signs for the winner's vehicle.)

Sam said Carlos is working on P&F's email address, since there's been some issues with it.

Judy asked if there were any suggestions for this year's Grand Marshal. Since no names were offered, she asked that Jackie Brown be considered. Jackie had accepted being Grand Marshal in 2020, but then we didn't have a parade for 3 years. Jackie was asked last year, but already had a previous commitment. A vote was taken, and passed, to invite Jackie Brown to be Grand Marshal for this year's 4th of July parade. Linda offered to contact Jackie.

Judy asked about the BoS's meeting on 3/25/24 in regards to having the complete parade line-up take place on Ridge Hill Road. The BoS voted, and so passed. Sam asked Chief Rose for help in policing traffic on/at Ridge Hill Road. Chief Rose said this will be a safer location for lining up the parade and will provide us with police assistance. (We plan to purchase "safety" vests for officials helping with the line-up.) Chief Rose said he will contact businesses on Ridge Hill for permission to use their parking areas for staging the line-up. He did express concerns about the safety of spectators sitting on the "wall" on the east side of the bridge and said he may station an officer there for the parade. Sam inquired about traffic cones from the Highway Dept and Police Dept for line-up too. She also wants every entry in the parade to fill out a registration form prior to the event and not join in the morning of the 4th. Chief Rose also used the TV for showing us an aerial view of where the parade will line up, which was very helpful. As he said, there are ample opportunities of places to use for both marching and vehicle participants. At our next meeting, he will let us know which businesses he has contacted and which parking areas we'll be allowed to use. We will also plan to have porta-jons available at the parade line-up.

Discussion about different items:

Motion made, voted and passed that no water cannons, pistols, guns, hoses, etc., can be dispersed by any parade participant (either in/on a vehicle or marching) at spectators, or by any spectators towards those in the parade, anywhere along the parade route.

Motion made, voted and passed that no political endorsements (such as signs, flyers, banners, flags, etc) can be carried or passed out anywhere along the parade route.

Motion made, voted and passed that no candy, food, toys, etc can be thrown/tossed by any one in a vehicle or on a float, whether moving or stationary, anywhere along the parade route.

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Those items may be handed out (not thrown/tossed) by a walking parade participant to a spectator.

Update on our P&F t-shirts - End of the Road Tees will again be our supplier. We'll sell our usual short-sleeve t-shirts, and may offer long-sleeve this year. Have time to decide.

Discussed last year's sponsors, the amounts they donated, and which committee member was responsible for talking to them, Then went over the "starting" list for this year. Some potential sponsors were mentioned and assigned to members. Our intent is not to have any sponsor be asked by more than one member. Deadline for sponsorships is May 13th.

Judy will run the T-Shirt Logo Design contest at FES with the 3rd Grade starting April 22nd through April 29th. The committee will pick a winner at our May 2nd meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 25th at 6pm in the Community Room

Meeting adjourned: 5:55pm

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Gregory - Clerk