

The Pekin Community Betterment Organization continues to put the pieces together for the 183rd consecutive Fourth of July Celebration.

The following is a look at what took place at the group's regular meeting on March 21.

Attending were, Anita Temple, Steve Burnett, Rhonda Burnett, Lou Ann Kendrick, Mary Bell, Darlene Hall, Brenda Fitzpatrick, John Perry, Paula Ratts, Alan Bishop and Mike Bowling.

Under old business the group confirmed festival dates of July 3-6.

There will be a playground cleanup at Pekin Park in April, date will be scheduled when weather is warm.

**New Business**

The 2014 Salem Bicentennial Committee Representative will be Alan Bishop and Anita Temple. They attended a meeting March 28 in the Salem City Hall.

The flea market both price discounts were approved to be 10 percent off of \$60 for a returning vendor or a first time Washington County vendor (\$54).

A discussion about a float in the Washington County Fair Parade were held. Paula Ratts is in charge of it.

The Fourth of July Parade theme this year is Celebrate Our Freedom.

Program book work has begun with ad work and schedule of events underway. Temple asked for help by members to choose prior ad sales contacts from list. They will deliver a program from last year and thank them, then ask for new add for 2013. Group effort – new ads are welcomed, just ask for a business card or a PDF file.

Safari Bicycle Ride – June 8, the contract was returned by Eastern High School and the event is scheduled.

The menu for the main dish will be baked spaghetti, as well as a vegetarian dish also. All other work will proceed as last year. The Temple SAG (Stop and Go) and the baptist church SAG were secured by phone.

The Independence Safari Flyer was completed by Green Banner Publications. A work session of PCBP members folded, taped and placed return address label and stamped the letter. They are ready for mailing.

The mailing list includes 337 to former riders and 62 packets were prepared for mailings to bicycle clubs in Indiana and Kentucky.

There were also 44 e-mails with the flyer attached that were sent out on March 22.

Plans for the 5K walk/run are also coming together. The event is being organized by Kenny and Darlene Hall and will be July 6 at 8 a.m. Darlene reported that Pacers/Racers were scheduled and T-short quotes are being researched. Plans are to buy 100 shirts.

There are other motorcycle rides and the local ride was postponed until after the Fourth to avoid conflicts.

The Tankersly family will once again organize a crowd to try and re-break the World Record for spoon ensemble. That will take place on the Fourth at 3 p.m.

The events of July Fourth were discussed.

The tentative schedule includes, the parade at 10 a.m.; Events at the park will get underway

at 12:30 p.m. with normal opening, flag events and then the prince and princess contest at 1 p.m.; Dollars for Scholars will be at 2 p.m. and the queen contest is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. The Gills Grove reenactment will be at 4:30 p.m. with WSLM Karaoke and Texan Country Idol Contest from 6-9.

July 5 will feature the Pekin Idol contest with new categories added this year. Rhonda Burnett has two judges secured.

Praise Day in Pekin Park will be from 1-4 p.m. and the Lick Creek Band will play from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

The flea market and the rides will be open during all of the events as well as the Borden Lions' Club Fish Fry.

The 3-on-3 basketball contest is in the planning stages for Saturday, June 6 at Pekin Park.

Larry Elliott will portray Abraham Lincoln in the parade and around the park. He will also lead the Pledge of Allegiance on the stage on July 4.

The next meeting will be April 19 at 7 p.m. in the shelter house at Pekin Park.

New volunteers are always welcomed and needed!