

County Visitors Commission agrees to support several community events, projects

Written by Marty Randall

Wednesday, 28 October 2015 07:32 -

A livestock show, a Christmas ornament project, new banners for another event and support for the annual dinner meeting of the Greater Scott County Chamber of Commerce were all topics discussed by members of the Scott County Visitors Commission (SCVC) at its October 6 meeting.

During the morning meeting, the SCVC voted to provide \$500 to offset costs of a beef show for 4-H'ers at the Scott County Fairgrounds. Th show will attract 4-H'ers not only from local farms but also from the surrounding area.

The group also awarded \$550 to the Scott County Historical Society. That organization is creating a Christmas ornament featuring the original Lexington courthouse and the original Scott County courthouse. It will mark the state's celebration of its Bicentennial in 2016.

Another request by the Historical Society, a sponsorship of its History Dinners series, was tabled until January.

Another \$300 will be provided to Taste of the Vine organizers so that new banners announcing the November 14 event can be ordered. The fund-raiser benefits the scholarship fund established by Scottsburg Council 8052, Knights of Columbus.

The VC is purchasing a table for \$380 at the Chamber's annual dinner on Monday, November 9, not only to show its support for the Chamber but also to allow its board members to attend the event.

In another matter, the board agreed to pay a \$150 shortfall experienced by Airing of the Quilts in September. Discussion of the event ensued, and the board learned of several changes which may help attendance in the future.

A United Way of Scott County request for \$5,000 died for lack of a second of the motion. The request did not meet the SCVC guidelines.

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Additionally, Karen Weik of TravellIN appeared before the board encouraging the purchase of a \$10,000 advertising package with that publication. The matter was taken under advisement so that Weik could discuss the package more thoroughly with marketing director Brandon Polley.

Chris Wakeman expressed his appreciation once again for the VC's generous support for a marketing study that will determine if the county can support a multi-purpose center to host a variety of shows and activities, including horses, livestock, farm equipment and entertainers. The VC provided half of the \$45,000 study price tag, with the Scottsburg Redevelopment Commission an equal partner in the endeavor.

In his marketing report, Polley advised the owner of the old Scott Theater in downtown Scottsburg is still seeking funds to restore the building's lighted marquee. Cost estimates are as high as \$45,000, said Polley. Historical grants are not available for such a project because the building has not been declared historical and is still in private hands, not a 501(c)(3) agency.

The 2016 version of the Indiana Festival Guide will feature nine events in Scott County, Polley reported.

Members of the foundation board which owns and oversees activities at Englishton Park near Lexington are seeking tenants for two buildings on the grounds, Polley related.

He and administrative secretary Adrian Smallwood visited Englishton recently to view the available facilities.

Englishton Park was once the private home of the English family, early leaders in Indiana history.

The September 19 Lexington community yard sale and tractor show was very successful, he reported. Firemen ran out of food at one point, he said, and parking was pretty scarce.

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The Air Hogs weekend in September at Scottsburg Airport was also popular. Approximately 150 pilots participated. Because of the event, at least 40 motel rooms were rented.

An October 20 event was scheduled to encourage local groups and individuals to register their Bicentennial projects. The deadline to register for the State Bicentennial is December 15.

The Visitors Commission board will next meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 10, because of the November 3 General Election. Meetings are conducted at Scottsburg Heritage Station, 180 North Main Street.

Persons wishing to be on the agenda may call 812-752-9211 by Friday, November 6.