

Roosevelt Center Merchants' Association

Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2017

Present:	Joe Gareri, Caitlin McGrath, Tony Dorvitt, David Dorvitt, Amy Knesel (pumpkin festival), Susan Walker, Taylor Cole, George Matthews, Linda Ivy, David Whaples, Michael Hartman, Cindy Comproni, Gretchen Schock, Jay Davis
Regrets:	
Next Meeting:	October 25, 2017 @ 10:00am Location: New Deal Café

The meeting was called to order by Caitlin McGrath at 10:07.

Announcements

- ❖ October is National Co-op Month. Look for extensive details in upcoming issues of the *Greenbelt News Review*. The theme this year is "Co-ops Commit."
- ❖ RCMA dues of \$100 are currently due for 2017-2018.
- ❖ Approved event permits for Roosevelt Center can always be found at <http://rcma.greenbelt.coop> assuming that we have received them from the city.

Items for Discussion

- **Financial Report – Cindy** Current standing \$802.80. Spent \$250 for Labor Day movies. Dues are coming up. We usually start collecting in October. It's \$100 to pay all at once. Cindy will send out last year's letter. Susan Walker raised the issue of paying dues for non-merchants. Do we have a friends or supporter category? Caitlin raised the prospect of a "friends of" category paying ½ the rate for which everyone agreed.
- **Annual Pumpkin Carving and Pumpkin Walk** – October 27 & 28 – Amy Knesel has taken over chairing the event this year. Carving on the 27th in Roosevelt Center beginning at 4:00pm for toddlers. The walk is on the 28th. The pumpkin walk is also looking for sponsorship money. Amy gave out her email address for businesses to contact her, amyknesel@gmail.com. Get in touch if business wants to be involved. Amy will send out requests. NDC will be passing out cookies and hot cider. The Co-op will be donating the cider for the event. Amy has also approached the co-op about sourcing pumpkins.
- **Alternatives to Travelling Palette** – Caitlin brought last year's traveling palette. There was discussion about creating an RCMA website with its own domain. It may cost about \$1,000 for a web design. Linda Ivy is going to reach out to web designers to ascertain prices and will report back next month.
- **Homeless** – There seems to be a growing number of homeless in Roosevelt Center. Cindy has had complaints. There were 11 people sleeping out after the Blues Festival. Cindy asserted that people sleeping in the center is not welcoming. It may keep others out of the center. What can we do? Can the police step up presence? How do we strike the balance between loitering and being homeless? The police can only enforce the laws. We have to decide on policy. If parks are closed at 11, can the police check things? It was agreed to form a committee to work on this issue. Toni, Taylor, Michael, and Cindy will get together.
- **Halloween Parade** – Monday, October 30. The parade starts at 4:30. Caitlin will write to Recreation Department for a synopsis of the event. Police will be doing trunk or treat during the parade times too. The following information is from the City's write up of the event, "South end, at the tunnel 4:30pm SHARP! - Parade begins (Lineup as early as 4:00pm) 5:30pm – Costume awards at Old Greenbelt Theatre 6:00pm – It's the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown (1966) NR, 25 min. Come celebrate

the 80th anniversary of Greenbelt's first Halloween costume parade, which took place one month after the first residents moved into the brand-new town! Come dressed in your finest Halloween costume! Prizes will be awarded to contestants with the most innovative costume in their age group. There will also be a category for the best in family and best pet. This year could be yours to win! So, come out in style! Refreshments and a spooky film will wrap up the evening after contest winner announcements. In the event of inclement weather, call the weather hotline at 301-474-0646 for an updated event status."

- Last year we talked about a **work session with City Council**. It seems to be that time. Joe will email Anne Marie about any meeting being set up.

- Status with **Chef Karim's space**? No one had any information.

- **Signage in windows** – leave for next month since Cindy had left the meeting and this was her issue.

- **Water main update – Joe**. No change from last month. WSSC and the city are still awaiting redesigns from the contractor.

Other Business

- ❖ Issues with **amplified music in Roosevelt Center on Tuesday**. Amplified music not allowed without a permit and police should be called.

- ❖ On October 28 from 2pm – 4pm in the Community Center, the **Greenbelt Community Development Corp.** will be having its annual meeting. They are hoping to have Chad Williams there discuss zoning ordinances in the county / city.

- ❖ NDC is moving positively towards changes. They have a new executive chef who will be starting soon. They went through a consultant who was involved in the interview process and are very hopeful to have found the right match for the Café.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 am.