

DDMO MONTHLY MEETING – July 2024

Part 1 – Attendees: Teresa, Lauren, Bill Robins, Chris Cotty, Peg

Natalie Pineiro provided a presentation of the SID initiative for Dunellen.

Presentations: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/81peej35zg58khdaaowm4/AMWCEzQgMeQxz3hQoL7Kojg?rlkey=m4l6rb0cr1alqxm5sqileya0&st=tcgqhiho&dl=0>

Part 2 – Attendees: Teresa, Lauren, Bill Robins, Chris Cotty, Peg

- Harvestfest - will wait for Heidi's update on Marketing

- Unity Day - Teresa provided an overview of Unity Day. (which will coincide with Olympics this year) may also be an annual event. Recommendation was made for DDMO to sponsor a mural board. The labor/artwork would be done in Teen Art Camp. DDMO can work with the Borough to decide where to hang the board, and can display it at the Unity Day events, or at other town events. The DDMO agreed to fund the \$150 for the mural board.

- Light poles - Chris has been doing a terrific job of keeping up with the rope lights. Each time the DWC puts up the new Hometown Heros or Christmas decorations the rope lights have been removed or unwound. Chris has corrected them again, and we have one that is pending.

He noted that there is at least one light pole in front of 355 North that is dangerous - if you lean on it, it will move about 3 feet. He also said many of the lights on the poles are not working. Chris provided the pole locations and details to Alex Miller and Jason to be addressed.

- National Night Out - is next Tuesday, August 6 from 6 to 8. Teresa suggested a jar of candy so kids could count the candy and win the jar. The committee liked the idea. Peg will get the jar and candy. Peg will contact Heidi to have flyers for the event, flyers for music in the park as well as DDMO flyers.

- Treasurer - Lauren volunteered to be Treasury of DDMO. Bill Robins said that he will work with Scott Olsen to get a copy of the current balance, and will suggest budget categories so that we can charge against those categories.

- Restaurant week - committee agreed to move Restaurant Week until after September, because we already have several activities going on right now, and won't have the focus to get this done during August.

- DDMO SID - discussed input from the committee regarding SID. Some ideas - spread SID tax to the property owners as well as the retailers, because they benefit from the downtown activities as well, address parking issue before we ask merchants to pay more taxes to promote additional patrons (who currently have nowhere to park) start the marketing campaign with the merchants, not the public - as otherwise we are creating public pressure on the people who are expected to pay the tax without addressing their concerns first. Chris and Teresa both suggested that there may be grants or funds available to help to fund the SID initiative. Chris to investigate further. Teresa suggested that we ask Natalie if she is aware of funds to offset the SID Costs.

Thank you for your participation!