

Meeting opened at 6:30 held via zoom and in-person, Senior Center.

Attendees: Peg, Chris, Derryck, Jaleesa, Bill, Nicole, Heidi, Tara

February meeting minutes accepted by the members

- Hanging Baskets – Peg reached out to Biondi's to get order in for hanging baskets. Waiting on a response. Should be around \$30 per basket to be put on the poles around town. DDMO orders the hanging baskets and DPW will water them. Approved by members to move forward again this year with ordering hanging baskets.

-Planters – Ivy and geraniums were put in planters around town last year. There ended up being an issue as the ivy dried up and people put cigarettes out in the planters which burned up the ivy. The hope last year was for the ivy to come back each year and DDMO would just replace the geraniums. Unfortunately ivy will need to be purchased again this year for the planters. Discussion about asking businesses to put cigarette pots outside businesses to try to curb smokers using the planters for cigarette butts. Peg noted that she has cigarette pots outside her businesses, but people still use the planters. The ivy and geraniums help with beautifying the town, so it was agreed to plant both again in the planters this year.

-SID - Special Improvement District – Meeting is scheduled for April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Senior Center. Post cards and mailings sent out to all merchants to invite them to attend. Meeting is to discuss proposal for Dunellen to be a special improvement district. Merchants pay a tax to help fund promotions and events downtown. Hoping to see more merchants attend this meeting.

- 5K run is scheduled for Sat March 29 Team met today. They are open to have tables at the event if we want to have groups there. Heidi talked to Bubz and they may be there for a pop-up event. It starts at 8:30am, and should be done by 11:30am. There is also a fun run/walk at the same time. There is no cost for the walk, only a cost for the 5K runners. There are 47 registered runners so far. They expect about 150 runners. Those doing just the walk will walk to the litter trap and back with the trash troubadour. He will gather trash found in the trap to build the eel. The 5K is meant to bring awareness to the watershed and clean water. Heidi reached out to businesses for gift cards to use as giveaways. We have gift cards from 8 on the Break and Jackie Sweets. Waiting on responses from Bubz and Dalucca's. Tara spoke with Anthony at Kessler. Anthony was going to speak with his corporate office to see what they can do. They don't really do donations, but maybe they can set up a table to show runners good stretches. Anthony won't be able to be at the 5K, but we can try to get them at Spring into Wellness. Derryck suggested to ask Wick Studio in town. Maryanne Meyers tried to reach out to them, but hasn't been able to speak with the owner yet. Derryck will reach out to get the introduction started.

- Spring into Wellness - is scheduled for May 4th. Tara will follow up with Kessler. Tara spoke with Yolanda and she agreed to do Zumba at the event. This will be the same day as the car show. Waiting on approval from NJDOT to close the road for the car show. DAICC may have the murals ready for painting at the event. Glen is sketching the murals and hoping to have 4 done by the event. They will be similar to a paint by number. We will need to discuss ways to prop up the murals so they can be painted. Nicole suggested to have flyers for Spring into Wellness at the PTO Tricky Tray on May 3<sup>rd</sup> since it's the day before.

-Unity Day – scheduled for July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. Last year we did international flags. DAICC makes up the flags and they are in the form of lawn signs. DDMO should plan to go to businesses in town to see if they may want to set up a booth to sell stuff at Unity Day. Rather than ask businesses again for donations, DDMO can use some money from budget to buy gift cards. Then we are supporting the businesses and can still do giveaways. We can collect information/sign ups for the Dunellen newsletter. Then whoever

signs up can be entered for a door prize drawing for the gift cards purchased. Other suggestions, see if we can get different crafters from different cultures. Do a 'passport' to get stamped when visiting the different tables. See if we can find something that can be used to help decorate the bikes. Maybe find a face painter or volunteers to help with temporary tattoos. Temporary tattoos would be cheaper and easier to find volunteers than face painting.

- Harvestfest – Website and application have been updated. Email was sent out to prior vendors to get started on sign ups. Share information with possible food vendors.

-Gentle Family Dentistry – 10 year anniversary coming up on April 8, 2025. Waiting for an official date for the mayor, council, and DDMO. Derryck is meeting with the doctor to discuss the official date, possibly Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

-Town Hall for volunteerism scheduled for April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Lauren will present for DDMO.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05.