



Harriston Rising Committee Minutes

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

12:00 p.m.

LaunchIt Minto

Attendance: Chair Lisa Leslie, Peggy Raftis, and Raissa Rogers

Staff present: Erin Raftis, Marketing & Community Development Coordinator

Regrets: Jan Campbell, Ryan Koeslag, John Mock, Caitlin Loughran, Councillor Ed Podniewicz, John Kay, Krystal Williamsson, Rachel Hopf

1. **Call to Order at 12:07 p.m.**
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
 - a. Minutes of the December 9th, 2024 Harriston Rising Meeting
3. **Roundtable Discussion**
 - a. 2025 Budget Update & Allocation

The committee reviewed the draft budget for 2025 (appendix A).

Raftis presented a draft sponsorship package (Appendix B) for the committee to review. Leslie suggested we visit bigger businesses outside town in-person to campaign for sponsors. Included in the plan is to offer a “Bench Sponsorship” with the hope to have enough money to refurbish downtown benches this summer. Raftis will connect with Paul Judge to inquire about the price of commemorative tags on benches. Raftis will finalize and send to the committee for approval.

Discussion around Beautification projects identified a need for a new Beautification Chair. Raissa Rogers indicated interest. For Valentine’s Day décor, Rogers offered to add the hearts to downtown planters. Raftis will send an email to businesses noting this will be occurring

and to respond if they do not want their planter decorated. Spring decorations will go up the beginning of April, pending volunteer help to do so.

Lisa Leslie indicated that Willa Wick may be interested in painting the Leslie Motors Bridge to say “Harriston” which prompted discussion around potentially relocating the cement planters and cool cone elsewhere & moving furniture to either end of the bridge. Raftis will discuss with Paul Judge. Budget for this would be the price of paint.

Peggy Raftis noted that she would be interested in painting mural on the theatre side of the alleyway. The cost of panels and installation would need to be included when budgeting.

b. Events Update

After discussion on the cost vs benefit of the Chili Cook-off, the committee decided to cancel this event for 2025. Leslie will ask the Legion if they are interested in taking this over and will offer our decorations to their group if they are, freeing up \$600 in the budget to be allocated elsewhere.

Raftis will connect with the CELP class to see if they would be interested in helping with a downtown Clean-Up in April (after the street sweeping). A survey would be sent out asking businesses to sign-up & offer supplies.

The committee agreed to proceed with the Egg-Scramble at the Harriston Arena on April 19th. Peggy Raftis will organize the event, and Raissa Rogers will brainstorm a way to connect to the businesses. Both will be in touch prior to the next meeting with what they need in terms of next steps. Peggy Raftis will connect with the Optimist Club so our events can be timed to align better with each other. The event will be crafts and an easy snack (no hot dogs). Erin Raftis will check what leftover supplies we have. Leslie suggested curating an inventory list.

The committee briefly touched on the Harriston Street Party, noting that Raftis will go ahead and book face painters, balloons, Makers’ Market, etc. Raftis asked the committee to send alternative suggestions for the hockey interactives this year. The committee agreed they enjoyed the Foam Party and would like to hire again; however, it will need a new location now that the kid’s area will be the same time as the car show. Leslie will look into the potential of it taking place at their parking lot. Leslie also noted the Kinsmen may be interested in running a dance on their Sportspad and Raftis will send Leslie our 2024 expenses/revenue to pass along to the Kinsmen.

The committee discussed this year’s Halloween Haunt date, and decided on the Friday before (October 24th) given Halloween is on a Friday this year. Leslie offered to connect with Todd Pridham or Minto Safe Communities to investigate the possibility of a teen dance.

c. Capital/Grant Project Planning

Raftis shared an outline presentation of a potential grant idea (Appendix C) that would combine various ideas into a year-round downtown trail, connecting the nature areas to the downtown. The committee agreed this would be preferable to a Christmas light trail, since we could decorate stops for all season. In terms of creating a “Public Art Piece”, the committee suggested reaching out to Mike Shannon or Ryan Leis (blacksmiths) to potentially make a structure that could be decorated.

5. Adjournment at 1:22 p.m.

The committee agreed to try an alternative meeting time in hopes to have better attendance. Next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.



Sponsorship Commitment Form
Step 1: Select Your Sponsorship Level

- ☐ Gold Sponsor (\$5,00)
- ☐ Silver Sponsor (\$250)
- ☐ Bronze Sponsor (\$100)
- ☐ CC&C Live Music Sponsor (\$700) * 1 available
- ☐ SP Facepainting & Balloons (\$700) * 1 available
- ☐ SP Foam Party Sponsor (\$800) * 1 available
- ☐ SP Interactive Game Sponsor (\$1,000) * 1 available
- ☐ CC&C Cocktail Lounge Sponsor (\$1,000) * 1 available

in addition or on it's own select the following

Step 2: Other Opportunities

- ☐ Bench Sponsor (\$800)
- ☐ Halloween Bag Sponsor (\$150)

TOTAL SPONSORSHIP (add selections from each category:)

Gold

- Event Partner Exposure
- Recognition as event sponsor at the event
- Priority Signage Opportunity & Recognition
- Name & Logo displayed throughout the event (signage provided by company)
- Social Media Sponsor Highlights & Mentions
- About our Partners post on All Aboard Palmerston Facebook & Instagram.
- Includes: company logo, name & mention.
- Social Media Posts & Mentions
- Norgan Theatre Pre-Show Advertising
- Logo included on digital event poster
- Radio Mentions
- Tax Receipt

Bench Sponsor

- Get your name/business name on a plaque
- Helps us refurbish our downtown benches

Silver

- Priority Signage Opportunity & Recognition
- Name & Logo displayed throughout the event (signage provided by company)
- Social Media Sponsor Highlight & Mentions
- About our Partners post on All Aboard Palmerston Facebook & Instagram.
- Includes: company logo, name & mention.
- Norgan Theatre Pre-Show Advertising
- Tax Receipt

Bronze

- Social Media Sponsor Highlight & Mentions
- About our Partners post on Railway Museum & All Aboard Palmerston Facebook & Instagram. Includes: company logo, name & mention.
- Norgan Theatre Pre-Show Advertising
- Tax Receipt

Halloween Haunt Bag Sponsor

- Get your name/business name on the Halloween Haunt Bags
- also receive a social media shout out

Appendix C: Grant Proposal

HARRISTON RISING
GRANT PROJECT
WWW.REALLYCREATIVES.COM

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