

Tourism Board Monthly Meeting

November 19, 2019 – Oriental Town Hall

Meeting was called to order by Chair Marsha Paplham at 5:30PM.

Members in Attendance: Marsha Paplham, Carol Mabe, Suzanne Gwaltney and Town Board liaison Dianne Simmons. A broad array of others interested in the Spirit of Christmas planning and operations were also present, as were Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager and Police Chief.

Discussion: Group discussed upcoming 2019 Spirit of Christmas event including:

Parade timing and execution: There was discussion of moving the parade to later in the afternoon - 2:30 or so – to shorten the gap from parade end to lighting of tree and other events. Parade sign-up forms will be at the Hardware Store and Keith will do online @ Town Dock as well. The parade Marshal needs five assistant parade marshals and five “cadets” to help line up participating floats/groups and manage corners where floats are turning.

There was some discussion of the theme for this year’s parade, with the group concluding that a traditional Spirit of Christmas theme was best. Basically, traditional colors, decorations, apparel etc.

The parade ends at the park/riverfront where there can be the official lighting of a town Christmas Tree after the parade - about 4:15 to 4:30. There was discussion of whether to do a traditional evergreen tree or to buy a permanent large crab pot tree to reflect our coastal/fishing heritage.) Diane Miller will see if we have funds available to purchase. (If so, Keith thinks it can be stored with the dragon.) There was also discussion about having Grace Evans do the angel tree ornaments in memory of folks as a fundraising effort. She used to charge \$5 per ornament which she hand-makes. They would be displayed on the tree. Donations could go to help Ocracoke Island or other. Order forms for the ornaments be provided in the newspaper and on Town Dock. There can also be donations to Fishes & Loaves or Toys for Pamlico Kids at the lighting event.

It was suggested we consider the Pamlico Chorale performing for the lighting event.

The Cantata at First Baptist Church is at 5:00, so people should be able to move there from the lighting.

Friday night is the annual star lighting at the harbor with the lighted kayak parade organized by Larry Summers. Diane Miller will handle the star lighting this year and Larry can focus on the lighted boats.

Luminaries prep on Tuesday night and assembly on Thursday night as well as placement and lighting on Friday evening will again be coordinated by Marsha. Everyone is invited to volunteer for this massive project. Chrissy Fulcher has contacted Marsha about doing

luminaries on Saturday night as well. She will coordinate the project. It was suggested they be placed along the riverfront and park to coordinate with the tree lighting and caroling.

Street utility pole decorations will be lit the day after Thanksgiving. Nautical themed decorations will be concentrated along the harbor. Some were damaged in recent storms, but hopefully we will have most working.

All event info from various organizations on Spirit of Christmas events should contact Jeannine at Pamlico News to be included in printed info.

Other Discussion Points:

A reminder was given that Pamlico County is collecting kids toys/stuff for local children. Heartworks is coordinating. Call them for info.

It was noted that the next planning meeting for Cycle NC 2020 is Thursday, Nov.21, 8:15 at Town Hall. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45PM.

Minutes submitted by Carol Mabe