



OAK RIDGE SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE
Meeting
March 13, 2025 - 7pm

Attendees: Ann Schneider, Sue Madison, Olivia Rudolph, Caroline Ruch, Rose Shetzley, Diana Macklin, Amy Carrickhoff and Patti Dmuchowski

1. Meeting to Order at 8:10 - Patti Dmuchowski
2. Agenda Approved – Motion by Amy Carrickhoff, 2nd by Diana Macklin and motion carried.
3. Approve Minutes of February 13, 2025 with a motion by Diana Macklin, 2nd by Sue Madison and motion carried.
4. Veterans Honor Green:
 - a. Phase 2 status. Bids were sent out with a return date of 3.21.25. Hopefully construction will start in May.
 - b. 3rd Order of Pavers – Patti Dmuchowski has submitted order to Polar Engraving. Delivery will be 4 – 6 weeks and stored in Scoggins Garage. Will be installed in conjunction with Phase 2 construction.
 - c. The current total donated for Phase 2 is \$23,112 and \$57K in the current town budget.
 - d. Markers for the 13 major conflicts have been included in the 2025/2026 SE Budget. Patti Dmuchowski provided a picture of a suggested marker and Caroline Ruch noted that they are not that expensive. Patti Dmuchowski to follow-up on.
 - e. Suggestion from John Browning on using astro-turf in the semi-circle at the site to handle muddy situations. Members noted several concerns with the product and suggested sod or additional seeding.
 - f. Caroline Ruch noted that at the Carolina Field of Honor there is a nice sign posted which states the rules for the site. She felt that we might need one also at our VHG. This discussion was expanded for the need of additional signage on Linville Road and Route 150 detailing the different areas of the park(s).
5. Special Events Calendar for 2025:
 - a. Memorial Day Ceremony – Monday, May 26, 2025 – VHG & Speaker needed
Patti Dmuchowski noted that there is a local church featuring a Vietnam Veteran speaker. Patti Dmuchowski to check with Barb Engel if she knows of the speaker.

- b. Flag day and 250th Anniversary of the Army and the Marines – June 14, 2025. Together with DAR, GIGI Williams. Olivia Rudolph noted that the Scouts will be involved.
 - c. Kids Bike Parade – Friday, July 4, 2025. Caroline Ruch noted that Lowes will participate with cupcakes and water, and Patti Dmuchowski advised that “Over the Moon” ice cream will also be involved.
 - d. 911 – Thursday, Sept 11, 2025. Display up Sunday, Sept 7, 2025, thru Sept 13, 2025. Money for a permanent plaque has been included in the proposed SE budget. It will be placed under the flag stand in Oak Ridge Park.
 - e. Heritage Day – September 27, 2025 – decide on contest & Judges. Claudia Whittaker and Rose Shetzley. Caroline Ruch noted that Lowes is looking for more visibility with community involvement and may be interested in sponsoring the gift cards for the baking contest.
 - f. Veterans Day – Tuesday, Nov 11, 2025, at 10am – VHG & Speaker needed
 - g. LUN – Saturday, December 6, 2025
6. Park & Recreation Schedule for the Year to Brock Dunigan – Patti Dmuchowski
- a. Ad schedule – Sue Madison. Discussion on Patti Stokes’ new quarterly publication. Sue Madison noted that with the new magazine, we may need to combine our ads for scheduled events. It was noted that their last issue for the year is in September, which will not be timely for our LUN. We will need to investigate other methods of advertising. We will use Oak Ridge social media and flyers on Dominoe’s pizzas.

7. LUN

- a. Confirm participation:
 - 1. Craft vendors and Food Vendors – Barb Engel
 - 2. Santa – Barb Engel
 - 3. OR Destination Arts – Barb Engel
 - 4. ORES Choir – Patti Dmuchowski
 - 5. OR Baptist Band – Patti Dmuchowski
 - 6. ORES Jumpers – Patti Dmuchowski
 - 7. Grinch – Kyle Anders – Patti Dmuchowski
 - 8. OR Presbyterian Choir – Patti Dmuchowski
 - 9. Summit Church – Patti Dmuchowski
 - 10. Confident Kid Raffle – Patti Dmuchowski
 - 11. Sponsorship – Patti Dmuchowski
 - 12. Lowes Participation – Caroline Ruch
- b. Discuss new activities:
 - 1. Use of Farmhouse for Movie – Martha Pittman to see how Summit does.
 - 2. Dog Holiday Fashion Show – Ann Schneider
 - 3. Kid’s Characters walking around the park before Santa arrives – Patti Dmuchowski to contact NWHS Drama department.

4. Lawn Displays – Ann Schneider/Diana Macklin/Amy Carrickhoff
5. Music throughout the Park. Thanks to Caroline Ruch for keeping this out in front of Parks and Rec and having it included in their priority list.
6. Luminaries up to the Farmhouse – Diana Macklin & Amy Carrickhoff
7. Lights in the trees by the farmhouse – Diana Macklin, Amy and Brent Carrickhoff. This included \$ in the proposed budget.
8. Decorating the Farmhouse – Courtenay Harton

8. Farmhouse

- a. Patti Dmuchowski noted that she had a tour of the farmhouse, noted that it is amazing, and many historical touches have been incorporated. Caroline Ruch noted that there are still items to be addressed.
- b. Ann Schneider and Caroline Ruch stated that the town is planning an open house on May 4. They are planning several community participation events. Patti Dmuchowski indicated that this may be a great opportunity to provide information on the Special Events Committee and possible other town committees for community involvement. Sue Madison will make up a flyer with information on the SE committee and the annual schedule of events. Representatives of the committee will be on site to answer any questions.
- c. Patti Dmuchowski also noted that next year will be the 250th Anniversary of the United States. We should plan some special events including a possible patriotic evening concert at the farmhouse on July 4th.

9. Olivia Rudolph, our Scouts liaison, noted that she will be attending college next year and Sophia Claspell will be our new liaison. Sophia Claspell has participated in many of our events and will be a welcome addition to the committee.

10. Budgets

2025/2026 – budget sent to Bill Bruce for review.

11. Meeting Adjourned at 8:01 with a motion from Olivia Rudolph 2nd by Sue Madison and motion carried.

12. April meeting on Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Patti Dmuchowski, Chair