

City of Oneonta Welcome Committee Meeting Minutes, 7/19/23:

Meeting called at 5:03

In Attendance: Chair Kathy Varadi, Mayor Mark Drnek, Marcela Micucci, Len Carson, Luisa Montanti, Linda Drake, Jennifer Hill, Ian Bard, David Kropp (briefly via zoom)

1. Guest Speaker Ian Bard (SUNY Oneonta Alumni) spoke about his experience in Oneonta and why he has decided to leave Oneonta at the completion of his internship with CADE

- Ian discussed how he was ready to leave Oneonta, not because he does not like it here, but because he is ready to move to a new location and try something new.
- Luisa asked if Ian felt connected to the community
 - Ian expressed that he did not get involved with the Oneonta community until he started his internship, and that he found a lack of community presence on the SUNY Oneonta campus. He suggested that if business organizations were more present on campus (ie: internship expo) and/or that there was more publicity for Oneonta businesses and internship opportunities that would be helpful.
- Luisa asked what form of media Ian would have preferred to learn this information
 - He suggested more emails/listservs with specialized subject lines.
- Mayor Drnek asked Ian if he would consider being an ambassador for Oneonta in his hometown in Vermont
- Ian expressed that his favorite parts of Oneonta were the walkability, the friendly people, and how easy it is to meet people.

2. List of Newcomers:

- Kathy addressed the List of Newcomers the Welcome Committee was recently given access to. She expressed her concern of how the newcomers were located, but also advocated for using the list for the upcoming Mayor's Reception.
- The group voted and unanimously agreed to use the list.
- Luisa will create and print invitations (handbills) for these newcomers, and Marcela will send them out via the Shipping Room.
 - These costs will be covered by the Welcome Committee's budget.
- Len asked where all the committee members were
 - The committee agreed that all active members would invite one new member to join the Welcome Committee.

3. Rain Date for Welcome Reception

- Luisa offered the Mall as a backup option if it rains on August 12.
- Len suggested the YMCA, to keep the event within the City lines.
 - Len has followed up with YMCA

4. Organization for August 12 Reception:

- Caribbean Theme:
 - Reggae music
 - Caribbean food (Classic, Cabral, Junior's, Alison to bring trays of food)
- Setup:
 - All hands on deck, 11am arrival: DPW to bring barricades and tables; Rich and Loraine Tyler, Mayor Drnek, Len, Marce, and others will be on site to help setup tables.
 - Mayor Drnek to work on finding similar tables to those in Muller Plaza
 - Also offered up the white stanchions and flag stanchions
 - Mark also to bring City's PA system/portable mics
 - Mark to build reggae playlist
 - INVITED Tables by Category: [Rich & Loraine to manage floorplan]
 - Arts/Theatre/Music
 - Theatre groups
 - CANO
 - Dan Butterman – concert groups/CSO
 - McIlroy
 - Stoltzer
 - Geoff Doyle/Foothills
 - Children
 - OWL
 - YMCA
 - Culture
 - Swart Wilcox
 - GOHS/All About Oneonta
 - Huntington Library
 - Swart Wilcox
 - Hanford Mills (they have an event this day)
 - Local Gov't and Public Works:
 - Common Council
 - Public Safety (Police and Fire)
 - Agriculture
 - Farming – CADE
 - Faith
 - Catholic Charities
 - Local Organizations
 - LWV
 - NAACP
 - Rotary
 - DAR
 - Elks
 - Lions Club

- Garden Club
 - OFO
 - Health & Safety
 - Narcan Training
 - Tobacco Free Communities
 - RSS
 - Family Planning SCNY
 - Refugee Resettlement Coalition
 - Filipino Community
 - Education:
 - SUNY Oneonta
 - Hartwick College
- Games and Activities:
 - Cornhole
 - Chalk
 - Bubbles
- Q&A with Mayor Drnek
- Table signs to be brought over from the mall
- Emily doing public art on side of GOHS
- GOHS Sidewalk Sale and Roots alleyway artwork sale
- Emergency Plan:
 - Len and Kathy on call for emergencies
 - Jennifer and Marce to bring first aid kits

5. Press:

- Press release to Daily Star, Hometown Oneonta, etc.
- Take photos at event with cell phones
- Len to put the flyer invite on 189 sign
- DO to share flyer on social media and create FB event
 - DO “Live” on FB during the event