

## Advocacy Impact Committee Meeting

August 12, 2021 9 AM

**Present:** Committee Co-Chair Wendy Ryder, Committee Co-Chair Tracy Bremmer, Dave Kuiper, Eric VanHorsen, Heather Upright-Solomon, Staff Liaison Jodi Thelen

**Excused:** Kyle Geenen, Lisa Gonzalez

**Name Change:** The PR Committee has had a name change to Advocacy Impact Committee

**Membership Spotlight:** Jodi to send a message to Jacklyn Humbarger for interview.

**Parades:** Next parade will be Pumpkifest. Discussed having the volunteer sign a form stating their "commitment" for the parade. Also discussed an "incentive" for drivers. Gift Card or money. Discussed having two volunteers for each parade that way if one cannot make it, we already have a built in back up.

**MDOT:** Dave to contact MDOT. Have not heard anything since he filed the application on June 14. Next cleanup is September 25.

**Habitat for Humanity:** Heather to contact Travis at Habitat regarding fall build.

**Veteran's Scholarship:** No new information.

**Life Jacket Donation:** Coverage in both local newspapers and local news. 380 life jackets donated in Ottawa County. 50 life jackets donated in Muskegon County. 50 life jackets to be delivered next week in Allegan. Wendy and 3 other Venetian Festival volunteers were paid for their time by a purchase of life jackets for the drive. Discussed sending out a blast to the membership reminding them that we will be doing the life jacket drive yearly and that they can collect them throughout the year. Wendy to mention this at the September Membership Meeting. WGHN and Mercy will be having a collaborative meeting for next years drive.

**Muskegon Parks:** Eric spoke with Frank Anderson. They are raising funds for a "Tailgating Area" at Big Red Stadium in Muskegon. This will cost \$15,000. There will be a charge on game nights and then the rest of the time the park will be open to the public. Planning on paving and having permanent grills for use. Josh Brugger has already pledged some funds and resources. Discussed looking into the Gil White Placemaking Grant. Wendy and Eric to check into this.

**Coat Drive:** There will be a coat drive in September and October. Collecting new and gently used coats.

**New Business.** Berry Field looking for volunteers to help build a playground on September 13, 14 & 15. Wendy will contact Mary Sanders about the need. Possibly send out a blast to ask the membership for volunteers.

Discussed interviewing a "Retiring" Realtor to post on our site. Discussed interview points such as "what have I learned in my XX amount of years as an agent", "what I wish I knew when I first started my career". Talking points to include things a new member would like to know as they are starting out.

Next Meeting: Thursday September 9, 9 am.