

Meeting Minutes prepared by Sherrie Mitchell, August 7 Maple Leaf Management Group.

Maple Leaf Management Group meeting. Today they had a conference call with John Seibert, strategic planning consultant. First order of business for the plan was to increase their numbers. They want to add 7 to 10 members to help create a strategic plan. They created a list of 35 members of the community and through process of elimination came up with a list and who would contact these people to join. Nancy Crocker has joined this group to represent the artists.

Once that was completed they moved on to SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats). **It was suggested by Seibert that a community survey be completed to identify SWOT. Diana Biddle suggested that SWOT should be identified through focus groups instead of through public input. As we all know, the commissioners chose to forego a community forum for input. Seems Biddle would like to continue on that path.**

Seibert then asked about a feasibility study. The board replied that there was no feasibility study completed. Seibert commented that the board was beyond the point of obtaining a study (too late).

Darren Byrd commented that an informal study was done when some members took a trip to Effingham to look at a venue there and looked at numbers when the Opry was thriving.

Seibert told the board that they would need to create a document with bullet points that would inform the community on the data used to "pull the trigger". (Looking forward to reading that.) Suzanne Gaudin will be the leader of strategic planning according to Bruce Gould.

Gould reported that 78 applications had been received for the Executive Director position. They had it narrowed down to 4. 3 applicants are from Indiana.

The DNR gave them permission to move the dirt pile. The driveway issue is still not resolved.

I asked about the bids for lighting and sound. Those cost are inline with the hard cost in the contract, according to Kevin Ault. They have alloted \$150,000 for lighting and \$225,000 for sound.

Jim Schultz made a couple of comments during the meeting worth noting. First, he said that the bank made the decision to loan this 12.5 million dollars in 5 minutes. (Guess when taxpayers are the collateral, what more do you need.) Second, he said that folks were reaching out to him about

misinformation floating around. Jane Ellis confirmed that these calls are occurring. Neither stated what information was being sought by the callers.