

VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES
PLATZKONZERT COMMISSION
MINUTES
MAY 15, 2023

Members in Attendance:

Gary Pilafas, Chair
Yousuf Ahmed
Kenneth Busch
Linda Dressler
Alex Summerfelt
Gene Walters

Members Absent:

Mike Cahoj

Others in Attendance:

Ben Gibbs, NOW Arena General Manager
Mike Czopek, Manager of Corporate Partnerships, NOW Arena
Suzanne Ostrovsky, Assistant Village Manager / Staff Liaison

I. Call to Order/Roll Call:

Chairman Pilafas called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. A quorum was present at that time.

II. Approval of Minutes:

September 6, 2022; September 19, 2022; October 17, 2022: Motion by Commissioner Dressler, Second by Commissioner Ahmed, Vote 4-0 Aye (2 Abstain)

April 17, 2023: Motion by Commissioner Ahmed, Second by Commissioner Busch, Vote 6-0 aye.

III. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

IV. New Business

A. Platzkonzert 2023:

- 1) Tent/Layout. Ben showed proposed map for new stage location on the other side of the tent; teepees can be used for band staging. Linda asked about the location for games, etc. Dachshund races are a go and may be located in the Kinderplatz area. The commission will also add a tent in the Kinderplatz area for picnics, etc. Ben and his staff will invite the tent company to come out to survey.
- 2) Entertainment. Ben confirmed that he has same bands as booked as last year's event, with the addition of Boy Band Review for the final slot on Saturday night. After this year, Ben asked the commission to review the bands and discuss changes for next year. Ben has the contracts and will get them approved. Ben to look for clog dancers to perform during intermissions on Saturday. HOTT Productions will perform on Sunday afternoon during band breaks.

- 3) Games. Keg tapping to be moved back an hour to 6 p.m. Check with Mayor on timing. Games to be scheduled in between bands (during switchout). Dog races requested on Sunday 1:30-3:30pm. Hammerschlagen will not be included this year. The “best legs” competition for men will return on Friday at 8:30 p.m. Saturday games to be 3:00 p.m. stein hoist, 3:30 p.m. stein carry, and 7 p.m. costume contest. Sunday 12:30-2pm dancers, 1:30-3:30pm Dachshund race.
- 4) Kinderplatz. The commission discussed having volunteers help with games so they are more engaged. Discussed adding a tent by Kinderplatz for the parents. Suzanne to get quote for a 30x30 tent (plus tables and chairs).

Park District is on board to assist and looking forward to a more robust experience. More games, looking to do yodeling contest. 12-5pm both days. Face painting to likely be added. Linda to look for inflatables.

- 5) Volunteers. Discussed having the volunteers more involved with games, etc., instead of sitting at tables and selling merch.
- 6) Merchandise. Consider having Hideaway staff roll mug and merch sales into their list of responsibilities, as well as improving signage to merchandise area for 2023.

Discussed adding felt hats, mugs and enamel pins to merchandise table. Ben and Linda to look into felt hats and pins, respectively. Ben suggested ordering felt hats for \$10 each and selling for \$20. Mike Czopek mentioned Yousef suggested getting 3000 mugs with no year printed on them to keep for future use if they do not all sell. May also consider dropping mug sponsorship to reduce uncertainty year to year. Discussed selling different kind of mugs; Ben will provide a list of mold options.

- 7) Food. Discussed ways to keep food more fresh.
- 8) Sponsors. Mike Czopek to continue to look for sponsors and prize ideas for games. Ken to connect Mike Czopek with a representative from the German American Chamber in Chicago.

Linda suggested that any local sponsorships should support the community aspects of the fest, including Kinderplatz.

Mike Czopek will look into adding vendors; the commission did not seem committed one way or the other to including a vendor area.

V. Next Meeting Date

The Commission is next scheduled to meet on June 19, 2023.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.