



**Super  
Town of  
Albion  
Revitalization  
Team**

[www.albionstarteam.org](http://www.albionstarteam.org)

A member of OCRA's Downtown Affiliate Network,  
associated with Indiana Main Street

Wednesday, August 28, 2024  
5:30 pm

**Meeting Minutes**

**Board Members Present:** Steve Hook, Lori Gagen, Everett Newman, Mary Ann Troutner, and Dawn Jones.

**Call to Order**

The Albion S.T.A.R. Team meeting was called to order by President Lori Gagen at 5:45 PM.

**April/May/June Meeting Minutes**

No meeting minutes were provided for review.

**Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report was provided by Mary Ann and filed. Lori added a confirmation that \$650 was transferred from general fund to golf cart fund to put that fund back into the black after buying new batteries. The summary of the financial report is:

Bank Balance July 31, 2024: \$19,631.06  
General funds: \$6,176.55  
Gazebo fund: \$8,164.00  
Flowers fund: \$1,011.20  
Pocket Park fund: \$1,043.28  
Golf Cart fund: \$134.08  
Fall Celebration fund: \$3,101.95

**Cut Necessary Checks**

Reimbursements approved: \$74.42 to Lori Gagen for new pocket hose and pesticides and a spray bottle to take care of flowers.

Dawn reported that she still has two ½ wine barrels at her home we can use in the alley in 2025. She still needs to be reimbursed for the wood, barrels and hardware, but did not have a receipt with her at this meeting.

Lori noted that \$200 was previously approved for enhancing the flower watering equipment. That project came in under budget at about \$132. She suggests we consider investing in a small electric pump to make the watering flowers go more quickly.

**Volunteer Hours**

Lori reminded board members to record their volunteer hours. A QR code is provided and there is a link on the website.

## **Sub-Committee Reports and Projects**

### **Organization**

- **Board vacancies** – Lori shared that she realized we had more people willing to serve than we had positions open. She chatted with Jacelyn Hawk and Jacelyn offered to step off the board while she is in college and working, and very busy. Her resignation opened up her board seat and allowed the board to consider electing all three new board candidates to fill open positions. Lori presented the slate of nominees, – Evonne Taylor, Shelli McBride, and Kayla Traylor. With no more nominations made, a motion was made by Mary Ann to elect all three to fill vacancies. The motion was seconded by Steve Hook. A vote was taken and passed by a majority of STAR Team members present, with no dissenting votes.

### **Project Design**

- **Mural at 100 S Orange** - Lori reminded the board that Gary Gatman indicated previously that he would talk to Chris Maners about the removal/remounting of the mural on 100 S Orange to see what he recommends. There was no further discussion.
- **Bicentennial Park mural** - The group discussed the mural in Bicentennial Park needing a new sealant coat. Lori agreed to provide Paul Reyes' phone number and copy of receipts for the material to be used to Dawn Jones so she can try to get a quote from him to complete this project.
- **Solar lights** - Regarding the idea of mounting solar lights along the top edges of building facades – Evonne reported that she has looked into multiple options. Justin and Jackie Diehm provided an actual estimate of \$65/hour to mount them and said it would take 3-4 days. The committee agreed this is too much, with the cost of a lift is in addition to the labor. The group agreed to table this for now. Lori suggested a "Plan B" to see if we could get permission to add a few to the police booth, if the town would allow it. She will follow up with the town at an appropriate time. Dawn suggested using shepherd hooks to place some in the fountain area. Lori asked everyone to think about options. There are six strands of 17' plus cordage available.

### **Promotion**

- **Fall Celebration** - Lori provided an update that there are 10 booth registrations for **Fall Celebration** including several merchandise makers/vendors; and Lions Club, Tri Kappa, and Augusta Hills for food. She reported El Mariachi is doing street-style dogs for Taste of Albion. One10 is planning ham & beans; Fox Den is doing wassail and iced coffee, scones, etc.; Ale House were maybe going to do pizza samples and free beer tasting tokens; Pizza Depot planned to do food samples as well. She is seeking more help from the Chamber to man locations where needed.
  - Mary Ann asked if we needed someone to help guide cars for the Cruise-In. Lori has asked Gary to manage the Cruise-In. Doug Ebey has the cornhole tourney covered.
  - Lori shared the event planning map. She asked if someone would help confirm which retailers would honor the 10% off offer (buy one place, get 10% off at subsequent locations) during the event day. After further discussion, the consensus was to just go with merchants

around the square and keep it simple. She will update the map accordingly to share at the event.

- A backdrop and some other fall props were purchased to create an Instagram spot at the police booth. Mary Ann agreed to decorate the booth area. Lori said Greg Leatherman agreed to get straw bales. Lori suggested we meet in the evening Thursday before the event to take care of some of the decorating setup. The large chalkboard will be used to put the music lineup and other event info on the sign and place it in front of Taylor Home/Strand area. Lori thought she might ask Gary to borrow the high-top tables from the EDC as well.
- Dawn and Kayla asked about taking more applications and they have leads for more vendors.
- Evonne also reported that Randy has lined up DJ music and three other performers - all acoustic. Lori added that El Mariachi will have a mariachi band there for two hours.
- **Scare on the Square** - Mary Ann reported that Tri Kappa members have agreed to be the “perpetrators” for the Live Clue Game.
- **Christmas in the Village** - Mary Ann reported we were still figuring out Elf on the Shelf. The Grinch was suggested. Lori shared there are three different “elf Grinches” and a set of figurines from Whoville that could be used (on Amazon.) She estimated \$60 for the ‘elves’ and about \$20 to do the figurines. Mary Ann liked the idea of getting the figurines. Lori will order them. Mary Ann also said we’ll need to develop a “passport” for the event to be turned in to draw for prizes.
  - Mary Ann asked if anyone was interested in having a float in the Christmas Lights parade. Mary Ann will reach out to Shelli to see if she wants to oversee a parade entry. If Shelli doesn’t want to, Mary Ann would be willing to take the golf cart and decorate it. Kayla has a trailer that can be used. She and Lori offered to help decorate a float as well.
  - Evonne shared that she has a Grinch pillow that she is willing to donate as a gift.
- **Ladies Night** - Evonne asked if the STAR Team will be helping with Ladies Night on Oct. 18, organized by Alice Baxter. This is the fourth consecutive year. The board agreed to fund the purchase of a set of sidewalk signs that can be re-used at a cost of \$165.55. A motion made by Mary Ann, seconded by Dawn Jones with no dissenting votes.

Lori reported the website is not yet updated for fall/winter events, but she will get to it soon.

**Economic Development** – no updates.

### **New Business**

The **Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper Challenge grant opportunity** was shared by Joy LeCount as an opportunity to get up to \$5,000 for a placemaking project. A couple of members thought perhaps the alley by the Opera House could be a good option for an activation. Steve recalled using this grant money previously to put a checkerboard in at Hidden Diamonds.

During discussion, Evonne noted that most of the activations have all been similar. Steve noted some benches need replaced. Lori asked if anyone would want to attend the Webinar and bring some thoughts back. Lori liked the idea of doing something different, like a historic walking tour, framed historic placards, or some other historical feature. A webinar will be on Sept. 11 at 1 PM.

Steve reported on the opportunity to put kids to work in town for a **Day of Caring at CN**. He will follow up to confirm we can use kids for flower cleanup in town and coordinate the activity.

Evonne discussed an idea to publish some kind of local paper to help people know when things are going on. Lori suggested social media and the local newspapers are the best way to know what's going on. Kayla said she would help with such a publication. The publication would be distributed at local businesses. Lori's concern is that it is a big lift - citing that publishing such a publication is really like a full-time job/business with the need to curate the info, design and assemble the document, and manage distribution. Lori also reported that Thrive Noble County is working to help lead some kind of community solution that provides a single place online to see what's going on locally. The platform would be robust and include a lot of features and options to boost local businesses as well.

Evonne also shared that Edgar Wolf is the new building owner of where A Thyme to Remember is located and he is interested in having people use the front windows. She is going to talk to him more about ideas for his business and how we can use the windows. It could be a better alternative to using the police booth.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 23 at 5:30 PM at the library in Albion.

- Lori Gagen