

## Christmas Planning Meeting Notes

September 8, 2020

The attendees submit the following ideas to consider. The next meeting is planned for **Wednesday, September 16, 2020, at 7:00 P.M.** in the Howey Library.

A Christmas tree in front of the gazebo at Griffin Park or near the gazebo.

Lights on the tree (perhaps done by the Boy Scouts)? Ornaments for the tree made by Howey residents as a contest where they are ranked and awarded. Lights strung around the gazebo. A local tree farm quoted approx.. \$150 for a 10' tree. Maybe they could deliver and install.

Giving/Charity type event

Have either a Salvation Army Angel Tree in the Library and/or Town Hall, or a tree as the library did last year with acts of kindness as ornaments. Somehow find out who is in need in Howey through the church or schools and collect gifts/food for children/families in need. Put a note on the water bills for people to apply or to nominate others. Also, to include shut-ins, or elderly in our community.

House Decorating Contest

Need rules set up (all of 34737 or voting district only, or ??) Need system to determine winners and plan a few prizes/awards.

Contest for Children

A project having to do with Christmas, but similar to the Founder's Day art contest for kids. With or without prizes – nominal. Display the Christmas art in Central Park or Griffin Park for walkers to see.

A 5K Walk/Run

For adults and children as in past years. Through Sara Maude Mason Preserve? Another location?

A "snowman" hunt

Like the bear hunt where residents make a snowman out of whatever, put it in a window or on the front porch and others walk or drive by and select the winner. Ask for residents to sign up and a fee? Winner gets the proceeds from the sign up? Or ??

Move Night At the Mansion

Have the Mansion show a "G" rated Christmas movie on the lawn. Sell popcorn or tickets? Use that money for prizes or other giving events. If the mansion is booked have it in Central Park – we would need a screen, sound system and dvd player.

## Christmas Walk

Residents dress up in Christmas finery and parade down the sidewalk. Decorate golf carts or bicycles as well.

## Christmas Light Show

Staged area of lights for residents to drive through maybe with themed areas such as Christmas in Paris or Christmas in Florida.

## Scavenger Hunt

A hunt in all of our parks using Christmas-themed objects hidden in public spaces and have a prize.

## Gift card exchange

Have a centralized location drop box for gift cards, if you enter and buy a gift card of up to \$25 to put in the box, you get to pick a card on a certain day. One per household.

Rick nominated DeAnna Thomas to Chair the Christmas Committee. DeAnna was not present. There is a budget, but not yet approved. The Chair will work with the Mayor in deciding which of the selected events could happen and if funds are available. A date or dates in December need to be chosen. We normally have the Howey Christmas festival the second weekend in December (12/12/2020).