

Morganza Second Town Hall Meeting

Tuesday, September 11, 2018

The Morganza Cultural District held a second Town Hall meeting at St. Ann's Church Hall on September 10, 2018. A large number of citizens and public figures were in attendance including Senator Rick Ward, Paul Sawyer from Congressman Garrett Graves' office, Louisiana State Representative Major Thibaut, Pointe Coupee School Board Member Brandon Bergeron, former mayor of Morganza Charles Landry, Kelsea McCrary and Cheryl Castile from the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism. In attendance were also candidates running for office: Renee Fontenot Free (Secretary of State), Scooter LaCoste (Parish Council), Aubrey Hendricks (School Board), Woots Wells (Mayor of Morganza), and Mike Cashio (Parish President). Citizen turnout was as heavy as it was for the first Town Hall meeting. In fact, Cheryl Castile, Executive Director of the Louisiana Division of the Arts, remarked that she had attended many Cultural District meetings throughout Louisiana and had rarely, if ever, seen such enthusiasm.

Rene' Thibodeaux, President of the Morganza Cultural District, reported that the pastalaya sale had been a huge success but that the proceeds, which were notable, would not support the full effort to revitalize Morganza. Additional efforts would have to take place over time. Doug Humphreys, chairman of the Community Events and Promotions committee, reported that there are plans underway to have a Christmas event and that there is consideration of combining the event with another planned children's event. This would fall in line with the stated goals of the committee to support parties and events outside the committee which enhance cultural activity within the community.

Taylor Frey, a Morganza native and owner of Taylor Frey Productions, presented a remarkable video which included a wide variety of Morganza residents. The video was an upbeat promotion of the Village of Morganza. A standing ovation was given for Ms. Frey's efforts. A link to the video has been posted on the group's Facebook page: Morganza Revitalization Project.

The meeting broke into several subgroups which discussed opportunities to beautify Morganza, create or support organizations, and to plan and structure events both long and short term. Individuals are encouraged to continue to submit concepts and ideas to the Morganza Cultural District on an ongoing basis. The committee will add the ideas from this Town Hall to those already gathered. A priority list will be generated based upon cost and impact. This list will be shared with the community and will receive ongoing re-evaluation. To communicate with the Morganza Cultural District, please use their email address: TheMorganzaProject@gmail.com.

President Rene' Thibodeaux would like to thank everyone for their hard work thus far and for those who attended the meeting last night. Great things are in store for Morganza so stay tuned!