

Johnson Community Oven Committee
Monday, September 18, 2023 6:30pm

Present: *Sophia Berard, Luke Gellatly, Jasmine Yuris, Liz Faracini*
Not present: *Charlotte Roozkrans, Trent McArver, Mark Woodard*

Meeting called to order 6:35pm

(Lotty swung by on her way home from work to report that we have adequate funds in our account for an October event.)

1. Season recap

- How do we feel it went?

Everyone agreed that the committee worked very well together this year. Liz mentioned she found it helpful to have someone at the “front of the house” to explain the new system to newcomers. All in all, we thought it was a well-attended season.

- Do we like the new system?

It seemed that July was not as smooth with the new transition, and the impacts of the flood. By August, everyone who attended seemed to understand the new system and we all hit our stride. A few things to consider for next year would be suggesting guidelines for the amounts of toppings to go on a pizza to ensure less food waste, and making sure the pizzas are able to successfully slide off the peel and into the oven without making a sticky, saucy mess.

- Should we do anything differently?

We will switch to using semolina between the dough and the peels.

We will also make sure more cheese and pepperoni pizzas make it into the oven rotation along with the more creative veggie and meat pies.

Luke suggested we limit the number of peels being used so the dough is not sitting for so long, waiting to get baked. We think 4-5 peels in rotation ought to be a good number.

Jasmine received feedback from a number of community members that Monday was a difficult night to make it to the pizza bakes. There was conversation around shifting the day from Monday to Thursday. This might be better for families and visitors who feel they have to choose between Monday Night Bake or TNL. Defer to vote on this for the spring. Luke will talk with Blair about the mix and dough options. Maybe this will help with potential summer exhaustion felt by all.

Sophie will make a point of staying on schedule for the FPF posts, especially the end of season post. Along the lines of publicizing, Liz suggested more signage on the field and around town. Maybe sandwich boards? There was then discussion of hanging OPEN flags on the front and

back of the oven to communicate with passers-by that the event is public and all are welcome. We would need two flag mounts and two flags. Sophie will look up the costs of flags. Jasmine will compile a cost list of potential needs for the oven to fulfill our grant, including two OPEN flags, two flag mounts, coolers, a ladle for the sauce, and an 8" metal peel.

- *Oven firing*

We all agreed that to best utilize the oven, the fire needs to be started the night before. Luke will start the fire the night before, then maybe George could stoke it throughout the bake day.

2. October festivities

- *Date/time* – Sunday, October 29th 1-3pm – afternoon Halloween costume festivity! Jasmine will reach out to Lisa Crews about borrowing a bucket of game stuff – soccer balls, frisbees, etc. Luke will bring down his frof basket, and Jasmine will ask Phil Yuris to borrow his corn hole set.

- *What shall we bake/serve?* Luke will get donuts and cider from Cold Hollow. Liz will get the candy. Jasmine will make dough for hand-pies and we will split up the task of making fillings.

- *Sign-up* – Jasmine, Sophia, Liz and Luke all signed up to attend and facilitate the bake. Maybe Trent is available, too? Sophia will reach out to Trent and Mark to see if they want to make a filling or attend the October event. Liz and Luke will each make a filling and Jasmine will make the dough.

Sophia will reach out to Roland Clark and/or Dave Langevin and see if either are available to play music. Jasmine will reach out to other town committees for potential collaboration, and Eric Osgood about delivering leaves with his tractor.

3. Additional items

- Oven maintenance – Luke will reach out to Jen Burton to see if she has the mortar for oven repairs. He will reach out to Nick Anger for assistance with any oven repairs that may be needed.
- Luke does not think he can be the committee chair by himself. There was discussion of having co-chairs in the future, to be determined in the spring.

Adjourn at 7:44pm