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Anonymous foundation funding BARC

By Christine Haines, Herald-Standard
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BROWNSVILLE - An anonymous foundation is providing the Brownsville Area Revitalization Corporation with funding to meet the next several months of operations.

The foundation is providing the non-profit development corporation with \$10,000 to cover salaries and other expenses. BARC executive director Lou Orslene said the foundation is also encouraging BARC to apply for \$60,000 in grant-funding for next year. Of that amount, \$40,000 would be applied toward salaries and benefits and \$20,000 would be dedicated to developing new income sources for BARC. Orslene said the foundation is interested in helping organizations develop their own sustainable sources of funding.

"I think if we really want to see BARC continue, we as board members each have to make a serious commitment to support Lou. He can't do it alone," said BARC president Norma Ryan.

Ryan suggested that each board member come up with a fund-raising project for which they would be responsible. There are currently plans for a wine-tasting party to be held at the end of the summer.

In another financially related matter, the BARC board approved a resolution to borrow \$100,000 from a loan program set up by the Fayette County commissioners for tourism development. The low-interest loan will be administered by the Fayette County Authority. The money will be used for various renovation projects while BARC awaits grants and other funding anticipated for those projects.

Orslene reported that a number of grants are being sought

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and that local matching funds will be needed for some of those grants.

BARC recently acquired a paddlewheel, lifeboats and smokestacks from an old sternwheeler. The items are currently being restored. They are scheduled to be placed near the Bank Street parking lot, adjacent to the proposed site of the Steamboat Museum.

BARC is still in the process of trying to acquire the old Autenreith Building for the Steamboat Museum. The legal battle for that property is continuing. The building is owned by the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority and had been under a development agreement with Ernest Liggett, though there has been no action on that development.

The annual BARC membership picnic is scheduled for today at 6:30 p.m. at the Hillman pavilion at Brownsville-Luzerne Park immediately prior to the community fireworks display sponsored by the Greater Brownsville Area Chamber of Commerce.

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