



Mayor's Winter 2018 Newsletter *By Mark Korin*

Is there anybody out there? Does anybody care? No, I'm not talking about a Pink Floyd song. Are we all so busy in our personal lives that we are just focused on only what's directly in front of us? Has the world changed and become so fast paced that we go from work, kids, chores, catastrophes, weekend traveling to just start all over again on Monday? Does it matter? What, you wonder? Let's start with me bringing you up to speed. A few weeks back we had a wrap up meeting for the Oak Grove Acorn Day festival. Less than 12 people came. Of those twelve people, honestly, four or five do ninety percent of the planning, researching, organizing, scheduling, preparation and daily follow through to bring a one day

event into fruition. These handful of volunteers sacrifice many hours of their personal and family time, desires and commitments for this one event, Acorn Day. Discussions at this meeting revealed the hard honest truth. **Is it worth it?** Members said they're simply wore out, tired because to do this right, planning takes a lot of time while others expressed family or health issues and other commitments take priority. After the past four years nothing's changed, really new or exciting for the event. I think something huge, the glaring big elephant **NOT** in the room? Where are all the interested people that we need to help and pitch in, to offload some of the chores and tasks that must get done way before the date of the festival? The real eye opening and solemn question that was asked, has it come time to rethink the genuine interest for this kind of community event? As we were told in the meeting, other cities are thinking the same thing, reducing the size, scope and length of their events. Some cities, after decades of continual decline in volunteers and noticeable reduction of attendance they are realizing the inevitable, time to close the doors, turn off the lights and shut it down. I remember talking to my wife about the meeting, sharing everyone's sediments, frustrations and concerns. She said something interesting.... **Times are different now**.... It's hard to get people interested to even volunteer at their church and other charitable organizations. I see a reduction in political action meeting attendance and very few come to watch any city meetings. Maybe it's because there are so many venues to choose from that add to the fast paced personal and family time or maybe it all boils down to a lack of any spare time. I can tell you, running a business, being your Mayor, dealing with aging parents, home maintenance and family life, adding the chair of the Acorn Day festival might just be "**the straw that breaks the camel's back**". I loved seeing all the kids' happy faces when they jump into the hay wagon during the Mayors hay wagon rides, but even the hay wagon preparation, setting up the sound system and being the emcee is challenging for me and only a tiny part of the entire event involvement. The direction and the consensus of **ALL** committee members that night was very clear; have one final meeting.... **Oak Grove Acorn day meeting FEBUARY 22, 2018 at 7:00PM at the City Hall chambers..... There must be a rejuvenated interest with a significant number of NEW members committed to the work and develop and new plan for Acorn Day.** Even if you can't be at the meeting but are committed to the Acorn day festival, contact the City offices, contact me directly at: markk@markkorin.com I hope to see or hear from those interested in becoming Acorn Day committee volunteers.
TO BE CONTINUED.....