

## 2016 Waterfront Festival is a SUCCESS

The 2016 Menominee Waterfront Festival has been deemed a success by all previously established standards and is destined to be even better in years to come. The biggest success of this year's Festival was, that for the first time in the past 10 years of the Festival, the beverage sales and revenues balanced. During ALL 10 previous years the standards of accountability did NOT exist and with a dedicated effort of tracking implemented during the 2016 Festival, total accountability was attained. The wrist bands used matched the revenue, and most importantly, the beer and brat revenue matched the number of tickets sold and revenue collected. There were many challenges confronted for the 2016 Festival which were each met head-on and overcome to keep the festival on track, challenges like the allegiance of former festival volunteers that refused to participate if Nancy Douglas was not the director. Those individuals included Steve Vandenberg, Mark Erickson, Bill Plemel and the YMCA who all hold strong support of Douglas and refused to lend their previous experience for 2016.

There were many other challenges which were faced including a total lack of support by acting City manager Robert Jamo, and the discord between former City Manager Ted Andrzejewski and Douglas which is referenced as "former manager and festival director" a number of times in the festival reports. Previous festival records were thrown into a storage room at city hall with not semblance of order. City hall support staff, also loyal to Douglas, had every excuse one could image to deny support for the new director. Two-way radios had been purchased and use in the past all of a sudden could not be located so the volunteers this year could not communicate with each other.

One of the biggest and disappointing setbacks for the festival was the alleged terror threat supposedly investigated by Menominee Police Chief Brett Botbly, which not only netted no results but remains to be nothing more than a rumored threat. The investigation resulted in closure without even a detailed report. To complicate the situation Botbly, being another friend of Douglas, released a social medial alert advising people in the area of the supposed threat without any basis or substantiation. Was that a questionable act on the part of Botbly? Not necessarily, but it certainly does add a lot of suspicion because he then resisted the additional security personnel for the festival as a precaution.

There is a Menominee City Council member mentioned in the report from Festival Director Toni Ihler who made violent personal threats against Ihler and others at the Festival, threats that were amplified by that council member's boyfriend and other friends of hers. That council member, although not named in the waterfront reports, was Heather Nelson. Nelson proved to be a total disgrace as a representative of the citizens of the City of Menominee and showed she is nothing more than someone who falls within the mold of total "trailer trash". But it should be of no surprise due to the fact that Nelson was the pick of Douglas to run as a "write-in" in Menominee's First Ward. And where was Botbly and an exhaustive investigation of this public display of threatening behavior on the part of Nelson and her associates?

Additional challenges resulted from other volunteer groups, loyal to Douglas, who signed up for staffing the beer tents and then did not show up for the shifts they had agreed to.

Now we have Council Member Bill Plemel dragging his feet on recommending to the full Council and the new City Manager to hire Ihler as the 2017 Festival Director. Again, it is no secret that Plemel and Douglas are close friends also.

Despite ALL of the efforts by Douglas supporters the 2016 Waterfront Festival was, by all previously established standards, a complete success and is destined to be bigger and better in 2017 under the direction of Ihler and we wish her continued success.

**A final thought:** If Nancy Douglas, as she portrays herself to be and as people think she is, truly was a “Team Player” and concerned about the welfare of our community and the success of the 2016 Waterfront Festival then would it not seem logical that she would have done what she could to assist the new director with a smooth transition of the festival and encourage her supporters to do the same. The **COLD HARD TRUTH** is that Nancy Douglas and her supporters wanted the Festival to fail so she could profess that she is the only one who could run the festival and position herself to take the event back over in 2017. We were able to publicly see the **real** Nancy Douglas once again.

All documents submitted by Ihler to the Menominee City Council are available for reading on this website.

[Cover Sheet \(click here\)](#)

[Beer Sales \(click here\)](#)

[Brat Booth \(click here\)](#)

[Additional Expenses \(click here\)](#)

[Waterfront SWOT \(click here\)](#)

[SWOT Details \(click here\)](#)