Music choices named for Seneca Fest

BY LADONNA BEEKER
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SENECA — Late booking caused Seneca's Events Committee to miss out on some top country and rock names for this year's Seneca Fest, but officials think they still have a couple of good acts to choose from.

Recreation Director Rick Lacey said this is the latest Seneca has been in booking music for its late May bash.

"The money needs to be approved a lot sooner," Lacey said Wednesday during an Events Committee meeting at Seneca City Hall. "We have to book bands early. We can save money if it's approved earlier, and it needs to be done a year out."

Money for this year's Seneca Fest was approved in the later part of 2011.

Eddie Moore, area musician and booking committee member, said the Australian rock group Little River Band could perform May 26 for the Saturday night event because it is currently still available for the date. Lacey said the price for the group is negotiable.

"This is a great act to bring to Seneca," said Events Committee chairman and Councilman Joel Ward. "It's a good group to look at off the bat."

From 1978 until 1981, Little River Band achieved one gold and two platinum albums plus six consecutive U.S. Top 10 singles with "Reminiscing," "Lady," "Lonesome Loser," "Cool Change," "The Night Owls" and "Take It Easy on Me." During its career the band has sold more than 25 million records and has scored 13 American Top 40 hits.

On Friday, May 25, Moore said Part Time Party Time band, from the Winston-Salem, N.C., area, could perform for $3,500. Seneca Fest will kick off May 24 with the annual Thursday night Jazz on the Alley.

Ward told members to listen to music on the Internet of both bands to see if their music is suitable for a Memorial Day weekend event honoring veterans, as well as Seneca's residents and attract out-of-town visitors.

"Both are great for what we are doing to kick off the weekend," Ward said.

As the Events Committee continues planning the year's activities, Ward said it's important to keep downtown businesses involved in the city's efforts.

"We want to tie in each event with businesses," Ward said.

Lacey said year-to-year it is a "juggling act" as businesses fluctuate on the events they want to participate in.

Members agreed that as long as Seneca keeps trying to improve, the more business owners will want to participate in events and the more attention the city will get from those outside of Oconee County.

Committee members also talked about starting a car show the first Saturday of each month beginning in April. Ward said the car shows would be held at Norton-Thompson Park. It's still in the planning stages, but Ward said it would be free to the public.

ladonna@dailyjm.com | (864) 973-6684