

**Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee
Prairie City City Hall
Minutes
August 24, 2015**

The meeting of the Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee was called to order by Chairman Ladehoff at 6 p.m.

Present: Chairman Tony Ladehoff, Sue Ponder, Joan Van Gorp, Kirsten Emmack, Linda Frazier, Dianne Taylor, Mayor Chad Alleger, City Council Representative Lyle Burkett, City Administrator Manny Toribio, Jasper County Hometown Pride community Coach Jeff Davidson.

Joan Van Gorp moved that the minutes of the July 27, 2015 meeting be approved with a correction to show that Sue Ponder was present at the meeting. Dianne Taylor second. Passed.

Update on Monroe-Prairie City- Mitchellville Trail Development

- REAP application was submitted August 17, 2015 with letters of recommendations from the Iowa Natural Heritage and Jasper County Conservation. The application asked for \$75,000 to purchase the railroad right of way. We will find out in mid-September if we received the grant.
- Railroad right-of-way from Mitchellville to Monroe has not been finalized.
- University of Iowa Engineering capstone class accepted our project. They will design trail from the abandoned railroad and trail head facilities in Prairie City and Monroe. The Engineering Class will want to meet with members of the Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee to discuss the project. For the time being, all members of the committee will be invited to participate in the discussion with the engineering students.
- Central Iowa Regional Planning Alliance is composed of individuals from Polk and contiguous counties. There are 25-30 representatives in the Alliance. The group will receive federal gas tax funds. Jeff Davidson will be attending the meetings of this group.
- Sue Ponder shared a resident concern about having a bike trail near their house.

Storm water Management Project

A University of Iowa Capstone Engineering class accepted this project. They will conduct a broad study of the needs of Prairie City. There were be a smaller workgroup committee that will meet with the students on this project.

Downtown Façade Rehab/Second Floor Residential Options

Part of the committee toured the Prairie City Foods building with Kelly Schneider. It was noted that a rehab project must make financial sense. The building owner must go to their financial institution to see what type of loan they could get. There may be options for a tax credit project or TIF financing.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

- Jeff met with Julie Stewart, grant administrator for Prairie Meadows. The window for grant applications is November, 2015 – February, 2016. There are two types of grants. Legacy grants are for \$100,000 and over and Community Betterment Grants in amounts ranging from \$2500 - \$100,000. The grants are for capital improvements.

- Jasper Community Foundation grants are open for application January – March 2016. Jeff also reported that six of the seven Jasper County Hometown Pride Committees will use the Jasper County Foundation for their 501(c)3

Items from Community Coach

- Jacob Ponder produced a Keep Iowa Beautiful video for Prairie City.
- There will be a Keep Iowa Beautiful bus tour October 2 -3. There are 40 spots available on the bus. The cost is \$155 single and 170 for a couple.
- Mingo and Kellogg may join Jasper County Hometown Pride group in 2016.

Prairie City Hometown Pride Five-Year Plan Discussion

Marketing Prairie City

- Target and build relationships with realtors. Consider conducting monthly open house for realtors. Prairie City needs to be in the “near Des Moines” realty section of the Des Moines Register. Want people to understand that we are part of the Greater Des Moines metro.
- Establish relationships with health care providers to promote use of trails as a part of healthy living.
- Contact business incubators.
- WiFi for Prairie City. Set up social media for community events. Attract bloggers to Prairie City/Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge.
- Establish relationships with media contacts.
- Branding. Create a brand for the trail.
- Promote the schools system. Small and outside of the Des Moines school system.
- Real estate. Need residential lots. Condos.
- Trail
 - Engage a design firm
 - Trail head
 - Grants – Central Iowa Regional Planning group.
 - Keep the community updated so that they are excited.
- Businesses
 - Drake/DMAACC small business resources
 - Prairie City Business Association. Five new businesses on the square.
 - Land (10 acres) by Caseys that is owned by Prairie City.
 - Rehab buildings
 - Promotion of new businesses
- Relationship with Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge
 - Meet with Lance Koch, project leader
 - People for Pollinators
 - Align more with the group and activities
- Visibility within the community
 - Need to be more visible in the community
 - Beautification
 - Plant things
 - Paint things
 - Clean up things
 - Fundraising ideas needed. Example was Fremont County’s garage sale.

- Public art project. Example was small bison to paint like the cement statues at the Iowa State Fair.

The next meeting will be September 28 at 6 p.m. at the Prairie City City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Taylor
Recording Secretary.