

Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee
Prairie City City Hall
Minutes
October 24, 2016

The meeting of the Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee was called to order by Sue Ponder at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Sue Ponder, Joan Van Gorp, Linda Frazier, Kirsten Weiland, Dianne Taylor, City Administrator Lori Martin, City Council Representative Lyle Burkett, Jasper County Hometown Pride Community Coach Jeff Davidson.

Joan moved that the minutes of the September 26 meeting be approved. Second by Kirsten. Passed.

Regional Rail Trail Development

Jeff reported that the acquisition of the railroad bed has taken place. Prairie City will need to use the REAP grant to purchase our part of the land. Lori Martin will follow up on this.

Monroe received a Wellmark grant to construct the bike path from Red Rock Park to the Monroe city limits. The plan is to grade the rail bed and put rock on it. Monroe will use the trailhead design developed by the University of Iowa students.

Lori Martin, Cheryl Grooms, Andrea Bolton and Jeff worked on an application for a Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) grant in the amount of \$1.2 million. They hope to have \$450,000 left in State recreation grant. This would allow us to pave from Red Rock Park in Monroe through Prairie City to the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge. We probably won't hear about the FLAP grant until after the holidays.

We will need to look at alternatives to connect the trail from Mitchellville to Altoona. We will not be able to use the railroad right of way because the railroad is using it to park rail cars. It's two or three miles around the area where the cars are parked. Gay Lea Wilson, Loren Lown and Vern Willey will help with this project.

The trail from Monroe to Altoona will need a name.

Pedal the Prairie

The 2017 Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge Pedal the Prairie event is scheduled for May 20. Lori met with Rick Hager and Rick met with the Park board about the event. Does the community want to do something in conjunction with Pedal the Prairie? If yes, NSNWR will need to know by early January. It was noted that we many want to close off the streets in the area by the buffalo sculpture so that vehicles aren't parked there.

Old Business

Jasper County Housing Market Study

The Jasper County Housing Market Study is moving forward. There will be nine communities involved in the study. There will be a two-day field event and all the towns will be visited. There will be a sit-down meeting in Prairie City that will be about 1.5 hours long and will include a tour of the town. It's hoped that the project will be under way in November. We will need some representatives to participate in the meeting.

Prairie City Entrepreneurial Business Ideas

Kat McClure is participating in the University of Iowa Entrepreneurial Assistance Program. Christina Kuecker is not participating now. Christina, Lori, Jeff and her dad (Dan Kuecker) met with Amelia Lobo of the Iowa Center for Economic Success. Christina is going to take a class at DMACC and seek help with developing a business plan.

Kirsten will not be participating at this time.

Fire/EMS Building Project

Nothing new to report. Options went to the City Council.

Lori shared that Jasper County is changing radios. It may cost Prairie city \$175,000 if we must replace police, fire and ambulance radios. Jeff said that the Jasper County Supervisors can authorize a tax to cover the cost of this.

Mediacom/Century Link re downtown WIFI

Lori hasn't had a chance to talk with anyone about this.

Tony Ladehoff arrived at the meeting.

Update on possibility of a childcare center.

There was no update.

Farmer's Market

The Prairie City Business Association is revisiting the Farmer's Market. They are looking for a coordinator. They want to find some ways to create some excitement.

Grant Status

Prairie Meadows approved a grant in the amount of \$10,000 for a new ambulance. Prairie City needs a letter of intent.

REAP Grant - \$75,000 for trail acquisition.

There is a new grant cycle starting in December. Possible grants for 2017:

- Build with Bags

- Yo-Ho Tools
- Paint Iowa Beautiful
- Jasper Community Foundation
- Prairie Meadows: Despite the non-profit status issue, their casino license says that they must have a foundation and provide grants.
- Casey's foundation
- WalMart foundation
-

Items from Community Coach

- Keep Iowa Beautiful Byers Environmental College Scholarships. There are five scholarships and information is on the website. A PCM student received one of the scholarships last year.
- Keep Iowa Beautiful Garden in Every School Program. There is information on the website and Adam Hammes is the contact. Adam@eco-fluence.com or 515.491.0706.
- Mingo and Kellogg joined Jasper County Hometown Pride.
- Pedaler's Jamboree Iowa - August 26-27, 2017 and will be on the Chautauqua Valley Trail.

Jeff left the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Sue asked that committee members consider the need for assisted living or a nursing home in Prairie City.

The next meeting will be November 28 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Taylor
Recording Secretary