

Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee

July 27, 2015

6:00 p.m.

Committee members present: Tony Ladehoff, Joan Van Gorp, Jeff Davidson, Manny Toribio, Lyle Burkett and Mayor Chad Alleger

Tony called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Sue made the motion to accept the minutes, Joan seconded, motion passed.

Charitable foundation affiliation options –

Manny checked with Chaz Allen, Director of JEDCO. He said they were willing to allow us to work under their 501(c)3.

Jeff had met with Dan Skokan, the Executive Director of the Jasper Community Foundation and Joe Sorenson of the Greater Des Moines Foundation.

The Jasper Community Foundation (JCF) is a certified Endow Iowa Foundation. This means there is an additional 25% tax credit available for contributions made to their endowment. Only 5% of the amount is accessible per year. A regular donation would just be deposited through the Jasper Community Foundation with them being a “flow through” fund for our committee. Sully, Lynnville, Baxter and Newton have all committed to use the Jasper Community Foundation as their umbrella 501(c)3.

Sue move that our committee use the Jasper Community Foundation as our 501(c)3. Joan seconded, motion passed.

Trail development/REAP grant –

Jeff worked with Manny to develop the initial draft of the application for the REAP grant in the amount of \$75,000. They sent it to Andrea at Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and Kari at Jasper County Conservation Commission for review. Manny will be presenting it to the City Council as a resolution at the August meeting.

There was discussion what would happen with the part that runs through the Co-op. Manny shared that most often, in these instances, since we would not be utilizing that section for a trail, the city would retain ownership and lease the property to the Co-op for use for a minimal fee.

University of Iowa Office of Outreach and Engagement –

Jeff stated that basically the U of I has been instructed to get out into the rest of the state. In response to this, they formed an Office of Outreach and Engagement. Jeff has worked with the person in charge of this office. This office sends engineering students that have passed their equivalency exam out to work on projects in the areas of transportation, storm water, structural and environmental engineering. Jeff thought we had two good potential projects they could look at:

1. Look at the proposed trail corridor through town. Consider drainage, design of the trail and design of the trailhead facilities.
2. Storm water management in Prairie City. Manny gave Jeff a tour of the storm sewer layout in town.

Downtown façade rehab/second floor residential options –

Lyle shared that he had touched base with Kelly Schneider at Prairie City Foods and Becky Horner at the antique store. Lyle stated that there have been programs in the past that had not really developed, so there may be some hesitation to overcome. Jeff asked if he thought we could get into the buildings and see the 2nd floor spaces. Lyle wasn't sure, but would talk with them again.

Sue said she spoke with Amy Ingle and they seemed very interested. She will follow-up with them and see about a tour.

Implementation strategies for Hometown Pride high priority projects –

Due to lack of time tonight, this will be discussed at our next meeting.

Items from the Community Coach –

- Prairie Meadows Grant – This is due 11/1/2015. Keep this in mind and think of ideas for projects.
- Keep Iowa Beautiful Bus Tour – October 2nd and 3rd. Hometown Pride members are invited on this tour of Jasper County and Louisa County Hometown Pride communities. Jeff will get us more information if we are interested.
- Keep Iowa Beautiful Video – KIB wants to make a video of people from the Hometown Pride Communities in Jasper County. We need an amateur videographer. Let Jeff know if you know of someone that would be interested.
- Gerry Schnepf, Director of the Hometown Pride Program is working with members of the legislature to secure funds for KIB. They are looking for corporate sponsors in some of the communities. KIB will also be asking us to contact our legislators to encourage support for the programs.
- Jeff met with the educational consultants for Keep Iowa Beautiful regarding their Teachers Growing Green program for K-12 students. Sue will talk with Brad Jermeland, our new superintendent.

Review our priority project list and begin thinking of our 5 year plan.

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Sue Ponder, Secretary pro tem