

Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee
Prairie City City Hall
Minutes
June 29, 2015

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

Present: Sue Ponder, Mayor Chad Alleger, City Council Representative Lyle Burkett, City Administrator Manny Toribio, Tony Ladehoff, Dianne Taylor, Kirsten Emmack and Joan Van Gorp.

Jeff Davidson, Jasper County Hometown Pride Community Coach was also present.

Tony Ladehoff moved that the minutes of the May 18, 2015 meeting be approved. Sue Ponder second. Motion passed.

Keep Iowa Beautiful Iowa State Volunteers Needed

Keep Iowa Beautiful is seeking volunteers to work 4 hour shifts at the Iowa State Fair. The Keep Iowa Beautiful booth is in the Varied Industries Building. Volunteers will receive a ticket for free admission to the fair. Jeff will send a link to use to volunteer to work in the booth.

Hometown Pride Road Signs

Jeff brought us two Hometown Pride signs to put on the entryway to town. Additional signs can be purchased for \$40 each.

Charitable Foundation Options for Hometown Pride Committee

Jeff shared some information about charitable foundation options for the Prairie City Hometown Pride committee. Having a 501c3 would be helpful as funds are raised in the future. Monroe is investigating setting up a sub-account under the PCM Foundation.

Options to consider are the Jasper County Foundation and the Prairie City Economic Development Commission. The Prairie City Economic Development Commission is comprised of Prairie City Mayor, Mike Buitenwerf and Chaz Allen. Jeff will follow up with the Jasper County Foundation and Manny will follow up with the Prairie City Economic Development Commission to see if one of the organizations could be used as a pass through for 501c3 purposes.

Hometown Pride T-Shirts

Hometown Pride T-shirts can be designed using the Hometown Pride logo. The shirts could be sold as a fundraiser.

Prairie Meadows Grant Program

Prairie Meadows has a grant program. Prairie City Parks and Recreation has applied and received some money in the past from the grant program.

- Community betterment grants are available in amounts ranging from \$100 to \$100,000.
- Legacy grants are \$100,000 - \$1,000,000. Prairie Meadows will accept applications beginning November 1, 2015. Most of the legacy grants have a matching funds requirement.

Jasper County Hometown Pride Program Development Update

Mingo is still undecided about whether they will participate in the Jasper County Hometown Pride Program

Committee Member Information

Two additional members were appointed and joined the Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee: Kirsten Emmack and Joan Van Gorp.

City Administrator Update

Manny provided information on the \$1500 grant received from Metro Waste Authority for the dog waste stations in the park.

Update on Monroe-Prairie City - Mitchellville Trail Development

Hometown Pride Community Coach Jeff Davidson met with Andrea Bolton, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation about the trail that will run from Monroe to Prairie City and Mitchellville. Ultimately the trail will tie into the Polk County trail system.

Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Grant

- The Jasper County Conservation Commission owns the Monroe part of the trail.
- Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation is negotiating acquisition of the ROW from Iowa Interstate Railroad.
- A Federal Recreation Trails grant has been received. There are REAP grants available for towns with less than 2000 population. Manny and Jeff will put together the REAP application and Manny will check with Keri Van Zante, Jasper County Conservation Commission Director to learn her REAP review committee meets. The application is due August 15.

Traffic Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP) Grant

Jeff reviewed the provisions of the Traffic Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP) and how Prairie City might utilize it in the future.

Review of Prioritization Exercise with Strengths/Weaknesses at May 18 meeting

Jeff shared the results of the prioritization exercise at the May 18 meeting. In addition to the items on the list, Manny and Jeff also discussed three things that didn't end up as top priorities on the list: community beautification, rental housing and sidewalks. The group will use the information to begin to develop a five-year implementation plan for Prairie City.

Before the next meeting, Jeff will provide the committee with a list of the top priorities. The committee members will be asked to generate some implementation strategies for each of the areas.

Review Downtown Building Second Floor Residential Conversion Research

Monroe, Newton and Colfax are considering converting some second floor buildings into apartments. Probably the easiest way to do a project like this is with TIF financing. The committee had a brief discussion about the possibilities in Prairie City.

Lyle pointed out that there is a group of people in Prairie City who want to see all of the old downtown buildings demolished. He also questioned if taxes would go up for other properties in

the downtown area if a TIF housing project is completed in one of the buildings. He felt that the current owners would need assurance that property taxes wouldn't significantly increase.

Jeff discussed his meeting with the Jasper County Assistant Assessor. The assistant assessor suggested that it would be best for someone to bring in a renovation budget for a building before they could determine how the building would be assessed for tax purposes.

Lyle will talk to some of the downtown building owners to determine interest and report back to the committee at the July 26 meeting.

JEDCO/Economic Development Update

Chaz Allen is the Executive Director. The next JEDCO meeting is July 2 or 3rd. The land on the south side of Casey's is for sale. Prairie City Economic Development committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at noon. Manny and Jeff will attend the July 8 Prairie City Economic Development Committee meeting.

The next meeting of the Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee will be Monday, July 27, 2015 at 6 p.m. in the Prairie City City Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Dianne Taylor, Recording Secretary