

Minutes- Prairie City Home Town Pride Committee

Meeting held 10/26/15 6:00 P.M.

Members present:

Sue Ponder, Linda Frazier, Manny Toribio, Chad Alleger, Lyle Burkett, Joan Van Gorp and Jeff Davidson

Meeting called to order by Sue Ponder at 6:04 p.m. at City Hall

Minutes from Sept. meeting were reviewed. Motion made by Joan and seconded by Linda to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Updates were shared and discussed:

1. Trail development and REAP application- the funding has been approved and the paperwork is being processed. The news re: the acquisition from the railroad is that a price has been agreed upon and the rail banking process has commenced.

The faculty administrator for the engineering students' capstone projects and the program administrator from the U of I Office of Outreach were present for a meeting with some committee members and interested citizens. They are excited about the projects and see this as a great opportunity for their students as well as our town. The focus of the student project will be to transform the former RR tracks to a paved trail to be used for biking and pedestrians and the design of a trailhead area to include parking, restrooms and drinking water. Students will start second semester and will present their final plan, included estimate of costs to the council and our group in May. Jeff suggested that we visit the trailhead in Bondurant to see what they have designed and built for their trailhead.

Prior to November meeting, members should think about and list options for trailhead locations.

Jeff continues to be involved with the Central Iowa Regional Planning Alliance Bike/Ped Roundtable in hopes that we could possibly pursue funding via that group at some point in the future.

2. U of I engineering students assisting with storm water management-

Students will likely be taking a comprehensive look at the current situation then focus on the problem areas. They will develop a capacity plan. Regional detention basin may be one option that they will consider. Once they and our committee settle on a preferred alternative, they will design it and present projected costs. Valuable information is expected from this project and the trail project.

3. Continued review and discussion of the 5 year plan:

-quarterly we should review the plan and assess progress

-Manny will check with Century Link and Mediacom re: possibility of public wi-fi downtown

4. Community beautification:

-Joan reported that she had spoken with the Prairie City Garden Club. These ladies currently plant and maintain the planters at the businesses, the area around the community building sign and the beds on the town square and at the library. They have been approached by the Lions Club to do some landscaping around the Vet's monument. They are concerned about the mower coming too close to the stone. The Lions have no funds for this. The Garden Club would be willing to contribute some funds but do not feel that they could do all the planting and landscaping for this. The Club would appreciate it if other funding and manpower could be found to do this work.

-Linda will contact the FFA/Ag teacher at the high school to discuss this situation and community beautification and report back at Nov. meeting.

5. Discussion of downtown façade improvements/second floor residential possibilities

-Jeff confirmed with the City's bond expert that use of TIF funds for funding grant writer for CDBG would be possible/appropriate

6. Upcoming grant opportunities:

-Jeff, Chad and Manny have met with Carl VanderKamp re: the need for ambulance and Assistance to Firefighters Grant. They will continue to discuss and follow up on this

-A list of recent Prairie Meadows grant winners was presented. 200/500 applications were funded. The winners tend to already have some funding in place, with the PM money being used to allow them to reach their goal

-A list of recent Jasper County Foundation Grant winners was shared

-Paint Iowa Beautiful- a possibility for youth community engagement projects. Donations of up to 30 gallons of paint

- Yo-Ho Tools grant funds by providing up to \$200 worth of tools

-Build with Bags grants. Website is plasticrecycling.us This is out of Iowa Falls. Tend to fund communities with grocery stores associated with Iowa Grocers Association. Sue will check to see if Prairie City Foods is a member.

Next meeting will be Nov. 23 at 6 p.m at City Hall

Motion by Chad to adjourn. Second by Joan. Motion carried and meeting adjourned 6:58 p.m. Minutes submitted by Linda Frazier