

**Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee
Prairie City City Hall
Minutes
September 28, 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, Linda Frazier, Dianne Taylor, Mayor Chad Alleger, City Council Representative Lyle Burkett, Joan Van Gorp, Jasper County Hometown Pride Community Coach Jeff Davidson.

Linda Frazier moved that the minutes of the August 24, 2015 meeting be approved. Dianne Taylor second. Passed.

Update on Monroe-Prairie City- Mitchellville Trail Development

- REAP application was approved for \$75,000 for property acquisition in Prairie City. Iowa Interstate Railroad has agreed to the purchase. Funds (\$450,000) from the federal recreation trail grant will be used on the rails to trails project.
- University of Iowa engineering class initial meeting will be October 12 in Prairie City. There will be two separate meetings, one about the trail design trail from the abandoned railroad and trail head facilities in Prairie City and Monroe and one about the storm water project.
- Railroad right-of-way acquisition: Jeff Davidson, Manny Toribio and Kari Van Zante met with the National Heritage Foundation on September 21. Topics of discussion were:
 - Encroachment by farmers
 - Rerouting trail around Heartland Cooperative in Prairie City. Like will need a nominal lease with easement.
 - Fundraising

Storm water Management Project

Committee members were invited to the October 12 meeting with University of Iowa staff. As the project moves forward, a smaller workgroup will meet with the students on this project.

Downtown Façade Rehab/Second Floor Residential Options

Jeff attended a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) workshop in Ankeny on September 28. Jeff shared pictures of a building façade project from Bloomfield. Projects are \$500,000 or \$50,000 per building. It would probably cost \$15,000 – 18,000 to get the grant.

Continued Discussion of Prairie City Hometown Pride Five-year Plan

Where are we now? Where do we want to be in five years? How do we get there? Decisions will be made to determine what the committee would like to achieve in the next two years, year three and years four and five.

Encourage investment and rehab of downtown structures.

- Look into CDBG program
- TIF is an option. This is a local decision that would be made by the City Council.
- Consider reaching out to developers. They know housing codes and could facilitate working with contractors.
- City facilitate the permitting process.
- Band shell in Garden Square Park.

- City of Prairie City could address public realm like Garden Square.
- Find a way to offer WiFi in downtown Prairie City. Baxter and Sully have done this.
- Evaluate a Self-Supporting Municipal Improvement District for downtown.

Maintain and enhance city infrastructure and services.

- Get handle on storm water improvements
- Sanitary sewer infiltration
- Sidewalk/curb and gutter
- Ambulance services
- Expansion of library

Community Beautification Activities and Strategies

- Coordinate with Prairie City Garden Club
- Service clubs
- Park Board – mostly focused on the recreation complex. Dog stations recently added. It was noted that the pond is really a storm water basin.
- Youth groups: High school, scouts
- Gardens – walking trail
- Streetscapes
- Coop mural

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

- Jasper Community Foundation relationship has been formalized. The Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee can use the Foundation for charitable donations and memorials.
- Paint Iowa Beautiful may donate up to 30 gallons of paint.
- Yo-Ho Tools
- Build with Bags – work with Iowa Grocers Association.

Items from Community Coach

- The Keep Iowa Beautiful bus tour scheduled for October 2 -3 was cancelled.

Action Item

Joan Van Gorp will meet with representatives of the Garden Club and ask what about the priorities of the group. She will ask if there is any way that we can help them. Joan will report back at the October 26, 2015 meeting.

The next meeting will be October 26, 2015 at 6 p.m. at the Prairie City City Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Taylor
Recording Secretary