

Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee Minutes

Prairie City City Hall

April 25, 2016

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

Present: Tony Ladehoff, Dianne Taylor, Sue Ponder, Kristin Beiner, City Administrator Manny Toribio, Mayor Chad Alleger, City Council Representative Lyle Burkett, Jasper County Hometown Pride Community Coach Jeff Davidson.

Sue Ponder moved and Manny Toribio seconded that the March 28 minutes be approved. Passed.

Senior Program Concept for Prairie City

Mary Baker talked with Jeff about grant opportunities. Jeff suggested Wellmark because of the wellness connection. Dianne Taylor talked with Mary about a community interest survey and they will be meeting to put together a survey.

Monroe - Prairie City – Mitchellville Trail Development (University of Iowa Class)

The University of Iowa student group presentations have been scheduled for May 5 beginning at 5 p.m. The Stormwater presentation will be first followed by the Trail presentation at 5:40 p.m. Each presentation will be 20 minutes with time after the presentation for questions. There are now two trailhead options: the original one north of the tennis courts on Hwy. 117, and as second one they prepared at our request at Garden Square Park. The students have looked at asphalt, concrete and crush rock for the trail surface.

The group discussed temporary use of the trailhead at the buffalo on the west side of town. People might consider getting a picture with the buffalo before or after they head out to the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge.

Jeff recapped information from the Trail Tourism and Economic Development meeting he attended.

- Positive financial impact on Slater bar. Sometimes have 500 bikers per Saturday and Sunday.
- Need to make sure that we have “bike friendly” businesses.
- Perry said that Prairie City could use the bike decals that are placed in businesses.
- There is great potential for trail users to spend money in Prairie City.

Jeff reported that the Monroe trail is too soft for bicycle use. The Monroe trailhead will be in the Red Rock Park area in Monroe. We will need a trail name and should think about starting a friends group. Do we want to sell naming rights for certain trail features? Would someone be

willing to make a memorial donation? Lyle reported that Heartland Coop may be interested in giving money for naming rights.

Prairie City Stormwater Management Evaluation (University of Iowa class)

The students have been looking at ways to get storm water into the stormwater system more effectively. They will discuss strategies at the meeting on May 7. We will want to run their proposal past the city engineer.

University of Illinois Research Project at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge

The USDA has funded a study to determine the economic impact of reintroducing bison to protected grassland. This is three-year academic study will run from 2016 – 2019 and will be conducted by the University of Illinois.

Grant Status

- Jasper County Hometown Pride Committees have submitted 31 grant applications.
- Five of the six Paint Iowa Beautiful grants were approved.
- Seven applications were submitted to Build with Bags. None were approved. We need to incorporate a couple of things into future applications: How will we publicize receipt of the grant? How would we use the grant money to demonstrate recycling?
- Prairie Meadows: No word on the \$24,000 grant application from Prairie Meadows for money for the ambulance.
- Jasper County Foundation: Applied for \$1800 for portable sound system. No decision yet.

Community Coach Information/Committee Information/ Other Business

- May 21 is Pedal the Prairie at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge. As of April 25, there are 354 people registered.
- Keep Iowa Beautiful will have a Jasper County Day in their booth at the Iowa State Fair and we will be looking for volunteers.
- There was discussion of additional building lots in Prairie City. We need a housing study. Jeff will see if the University of Iowa can help. There are other options as well.
- Sue reported that the Prairie City Police Officers are starting a recycle a bike program.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Taylor
Recording Secretary