

**Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee
Prairie City City Hall
Minutes
December 21, 2015**

The meeting of the Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee was called to order following the City Council meeting by Chairman Ladehoff at 6:34 p.m.

Present: Chairman Tony Ladehoff, Linda Frazier, Mayor Chad Alleger, City Council Representative Lyle Burkett, Joan Van Gorp, Jasper County Hometown Pride Community Coach Jeff Davidson, Sue Ponder, City Administrator Manny Toribio.

Joan made the motion to accept the minutes of the November 23rd meeting. Sue seconded. Jeff made note that the paint available through the Paint Iowa Beautiful program is actually 30 gallons instead of the 18 mentioned in the minutes. With that correction, the minutes were approved.

Application to Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities Program

The university's office of outreach will choose two cities as a flagship project for their program. This program utilizes students from over 10 academic disciplines including: Library Science, Business, Education, Mass Communication, Journalism, Urban and Regional Planning, Law, Public Health, Engineering, Geoscience, Art & Art History, Geographical and Sustainability Sciences.

Jeff met with Nick Benson, the program administrator. He discussed about submitting the Jasper County Hometown Pride Communities together (12-15 projects). He has started working with Newton on developing their project list. He suggested that Prairie City, Baxter, Colfax and Newton work to market their communities to people that work in Des Moines but don't want to live there. We discussed the different things specific to Prairie City. Jeff said he felt from our former discussions, he felt capitalizing on our proximity to the Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge is an obvious one. We talked about the possible expansion of the library, but felt that we have the initial steps covered. We discussed developing a small business incubator program with office suites, and the Fire/EMS/Police departments. Do we want them to take a look at developing the relationship with Monroe?

After discussing, we decided we agreed with the marketing of Prairie City to DSM metro workers, investigating the possibilities of working with Monroe Fire/Ems/Police departments, and developing a beneficial relationship with the Refuge. Jeff will draft a rough outline of each project and circulate it to committee members for editing.

Senior Program Concept for Prairie City

Chad shared that he spoke with Mary Baker. She is a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist from Pleasant Hill. She would like to develop a recreation program for seniors in the Prairie City area. Her idea is to provide daily activities for senior citizens, do assessments of their needs, possible trips to nearby areas of interest. They are considering using the multi-purpose room at the Prairie City United Methodist Church. They will be meeting with the Ministerial Association to get their opinion and possible support. They are planning on doing a survey to gauge the interest to make sure this program is something that would be utilized.

Update on Monroe-Prairie City-Mitchellville Trail development

Everything seems to be going as planned and on schedule. We are waiting for word from University of Iowa about the engineering class design assistance. Jeff is attending the Central Iowa Regional Planning Association Ped-Bike Roundtable meetings. There is grant money for paving that we can apply for once the grant is open. They allocate \$1.2 million dollars a year.

Jasper County received some to do some repair on the Chautauqua Valley Trail last year. Jeff will keep us updated.

Update on UI engineering class assistance for Stormwater Management Project

We are waiting for the U of I class to contact us.

Downtown second floor residential possibilities

Nothing new to report. Colfax and Newton both have projects they are working on. To really be a viable project, we need an owner that can make a financial commitment to partner with the possible TIF funds and/or tax abatements the City might offer.

Upcoming grants

We went through the list of upcoming grants - Prairie Meadows closes January 30th. At the previous meeting we discussed applying for a storm shelter. Jeff said that he visited one that is a combination storm shelter/bathroom located in a park by where he lives. He also asked if the library needed any equipment. Sue shared that there isn't a lot of room left to put anything at the library. She asked if we maybe could apply for funds to make up the difference needed by the ambulance department for their new ambulance. Jeff thought that might be worth a try. The grant through Assistance to Firefighters is more for a situation where the equipment currently being used is in need of replacing because it's hazardous to the EMS workers. Chad will get the numbers from Carl and Manny and Jeff will work on the application which is due January 30.

Items from Community Coach

Jeff talked about the Colfax quarry project meeting that he and Manny attended. He will keep us updated on the progress of that project.

Our next meeting is at 6:00 pm, January 25, 2015 at City Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Ponder
Recording Secretary, pro-tem