

Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee Minutes

Prairie City City Hall

February 22, 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, Linda Frazier, Joan Van Gorp, Dianne Taylor, Sue Ponder, City Administrator Manny Toribio, Mayor Chad Alleger, City Council Representative Lyle Burkett, Jasper County Hometown Pride Community Coach Jeff Davidson.

Linda Frazier moved that the minutes of the December 21, 2015 minutes be approved. Joan Van Gorp seconded. Motion passed.

Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities Application

The Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee application was submitted. The application is one of four that is being considered. Mason City, Cherokee and Linn County also have submitted applications. We should hear in March if our application is accepted.

Monroe-Prairie City – Mitchellville Trail Development

The University of Iowa project is underway. Jeff asked for volunteers from the committee to be a part of the Trail or the Storm Water Management project.

The University of Iowa students visited Monroe and Prairie City on February 17. The students are looking at a safe way around Heartland Coop and to get to the refuge road. They are considering the town square and the ice rink area north of the tennis courts for the trailhead. The students will be sending information and will ask for the input of the committee about the options. After a decision on the option for the trailhead, the students will come back with a plan with financial estimates for the project. The final presentation by the students will be in Prairie City in May.

The railroad acquisition has been finalized by the National Heritage Foundation. An appraisal was completed. A new appraisal will need to be done when the land is moved to the Jasper County Conservation Commission. Prairie City will pay for the appraisal with part of the REAP grant. Andrea Boulton, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, knows someone who can do the appraisal. The options for the trail surface are crushed rock or asphalt. Asphalt or Portland cement cost \$100,000 – 250,000 per mile. Crushed rock is about 5% of the cost of asphalt.

Prairie City Storm Water Management Evaluation

The U of I students working on the storm water project came to Prairie City for a site visit on February 11. Mark Sampson met with the students. Jeff reported that Mark did a good job sharing the storm water events and flowage numbers with the students. There will be a follow up site visit to take measurements on the intakes sometime in the next week or so.

There are some grants available for storm water projects. There is an option to charge a per month stormwater utility fee for storm water management projects.

The U of I students working on the storm water project were asked to work with the U of I students with the trail project regarding the impact of drainage on the trail.

Prairie Meadows Grant Application

A grant application to help fund a new ambulance was written by the Hometown Pride Committee. We applied for \$24,000. It will be May or June before we hear if the grant was approved.

Build with Bags

This grant application closes on March 30. It is a 100% grant for up to \$2000. The grant can be used for park or playground equipment. Manny will reach out to the Park Board to see if they have any needs. Consensus was that we need to inventory what equipment, benches, planters, etc. that we have.

Jasper Community Foundation Grant

Each county in Iowa receives around \$91,000 casino money to use for grants. Most Jasper County Foundation grants are in the \$2500-\$4500 range. The applications are due by April 15. A couple of ideas generated at the meeting: replace the roof on the bandstand and buy a sound system to be used for Prairie Days and other community events. Dianne to send a reminder email for ideas March 14.

Keep Iowa Beautiful Month

April is Keep Iowa Beautiful Month. Jeff will provide a proclamation for the City Council.

Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge

May 21 is the Pedal the Prairie event at the Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge. There was discussion about how the committee might participate in the event.

Senior Program Concept

Mary Baker joined the meeting by phone to provide an update on the senior program she is proposing. She is working to gauge community interest. As of February 22, six people in the community were interested in the program. She will be looking for a grant for the program and will be talking to local churches and asking them to help promote the program.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Taylor
Recording Secretary