

Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee Minutes
November 23, 2015

The meeting of the Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee was called to order by Chad Alleger at 5:15 p.m.

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

Sue Ponder moved that the minutes of the October 26, 2015 meeting be approved. Joan Van Gorp second. Passed.

Update on Monroe-Prairie City- Mitchellville Trail Development

Jeff reported that per Andrea Bolton everything is in place to purchase the railroad right of way from Monroe to Mitchellville. The purchase will close after the first of the year.

The University of Iowa engineering class is working on their competency exams. They will form committees for their projects and we will hear from them in January.

The committee discussed three options, Garden Park, the area by the bison and the ball park area near the tennis courts for the location of the trail head in Prairie City. Restrooms are in place by the bison. There was agreement that Garden Park would create a presence in downtown Prairie City. There are restrooms at the ball park that could be used by those on the trail. We could possibly have two trailheads in Prairie City.

A decision will need to be made about who will be the working committee members when the University of Iowa engineering students begin the project.

Jeff continues to attend the Central Iowa Regional Planning Association Pedestrian-Bike Roundtable meetings. The group could be a source of funds in the future. The group receives funds from federal fuel tax money.

Update on University of Iowa engineering class assistance for the storm water management project.

The class will accumulate information that can be used by the City Council for future decision making. Manny has sent historical maps and other information to the U of I professor.

Jeff told the group about another sustainability initiative that we might be available to us. A multi-disciplinary team of 150 students goes into a community and does 10-15 projects. They have typically gone to larger communities like Dubuque, Cedar Rapids and Sioux City, but they have some interest in coming to Jasper County. Jeff will be meeting with Nick Benson to discuss the possibility of some of the Jasper County Hometown Pride Committees applying for this project.

Update on Downtown Second Floor residential Possibilities.

Colfax and Newton continue to pursue adding residences to the second story of downtown businesses. Monroe has pulled back for now. Jeff will keep Prairie City apprised of the research being conducted.

Upcoming grant opportunities

Firefighters Grant – has not been posted yet. The Prairie City firefighters have a 501c3, but have yet to receive their tax id. Manny said it could take several months. Jeff asked if Carl has done an equipment assessment that would be helpful in applying for the grant.

Prairie Meadows Grant – grant application is due January 30, 2016.

Jasper County Foundation Grant – due March 31, 2016

Paint Iowa Beautiful – can get up to 18 gallons of Diamond Vogel paint through the Paint Iowa Beautiful program for a project. We could engage high school students as a part of their volunteer requirement for graduation.

Build with Bags – www.plasticrecycling.org – grants up to \$2000, not open yet. Prairie City has received this grant in the past for items for the park.

Items from the Community Coach

There are five Keep Iowa Beautiful Scholarships available for 2016 high school Students across Iowa who plan to enroll in an Iowa college or university majoring in community, sociology or environmental science-related fields are eligible to apply.

Jeff and a representative from Colfax went to a REAP assembly on November 5 in Bondurant.

Committee information/other business

Linda Frasier contacted Amber Samson, PCM High School Ag teacher and FFA advisor asking if there would be any interest in her students helping with community beautification, planting plants and landscaping. Ms. Samson will recruit some of her students for future projects and offered to personally help with projects. Ms. Samson also offered to grow some plants for the project in the FFA greenhouse.

Chad mentioned that a lack of storm shelters has been discussed with the recent storms. There was a question about making some of the restrooms at the trailhead into “safe rooms.”

Sue moved that the meeting be adjourned and Linda seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Taylor
Recording Secretary