

Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee

July 25, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Attendees: Tony Ladehoff, Linda Frazier, Sue Ponder, Kirsten Weiland, Mayor Chad Alleger, City Clerk Lori Martin, Hometown Pride Community Coach Jeff Davidson. City Council Representative Lyle Burkett and Mayor Chad Alleger arrived at 6:05.

Tony opened the meeting at 6:02 p.m. Linda made the motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting, Sue seconded the motion. Motion passed.

We discussed whether to have our regular meeting on August 29th. Jeff will be on vacation (but available via email.)

Went through our 5 year plan.

- *Trail* – This has shown to be a priority for the committee. We continue to go through the steps necessary to complete the process. We are making progress!
- *Marketing of Prairie City* – There is a proposal for a housing study of the Hometown Pride communities in Jasper County. Black Hills energy is planning on helping fund the study (the total cost will be about \$13,000). Jeff met with Chas Allen. Chas is going to visit with the other energy companies (MidAmerican and Alliant) to see if they are willing to help also. We could also request funding assistance from JEDCO. The results from this study could be used by property owners that are considering a development. They can share this information with their financial institutions when working on funding for their projects. Chad said there has been some preliminary discussion with some owners of the properties surrounding Prairie City.
- *Downtown Wi-Fi* – We have not pursued this. Lori will make contact with Mediacom and Century Link to find out what it would take to make this happen.
- *Encourage businesses to locate in PC* - There are a couple of businesses that are looking at working with the University of Iowa on their entrepreneurship program.
- *Relationship with Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge* – the city's relationship with the refuge continues to improve. It was felt the Pedal the Prairie event was a success. Linda shared info regarding the NSNWR page on the Travel Iowa website. She worked with Deb Townsend (also from Prairie City) to make updates to the page. (Deb had contacted Linda for pictures.) She thought there would be an opportunity in the future to utilize the available link section on their page.) Bison Day at the Refuge will be August 6th.
- *Encourage Investment and Rehabilitation of Downtown Structures* – for the CDBG grants for façade renovation, we need a minimum commitment of 10 addresses. Lyle mentioned that the business owners need numbers before anyone will commit. Monies from these grants have to be used to improve outdoor appearance first with the remaining funds able to be used for second floor renovation projects.

Other committee items in progress -

Jeff will be doing a presentation to the City Council over the student work for the storm sewer project.

Beautification – We have not accessed the Paint Iowa Beautiful grant yet. Keep it in mind when out in the community. (Newton is doing an update to their murals.)

Trail Update – Andrea Bolton and Kari VanZante are meeting with Lori Martin and Jeff tomorrow morning. They will be looking at grant options for the trail. (FLAP funding may be used for the connection to the trail that's on Federal land.)

Monroe Hometown Pride is having a work session to prioritize their trail plans. We are welcome to attend. We should consider holding our own work session to prioritize our own plans. We will wait and see how Monroe's session goes.

Senior Activity Project with Mary Baker – Dianne reported, the survey is ready to go. They are planning on meeting with the Ministerial Association to discuss.

The University of Iowa's Entrepreneurial Consulting class has met with Kat McClure and Kirsten Emmack. They are waiting to hear more information.

Chad said he has spoken with Phil Webb regarding the possibility of a daycare in Prairie City. He has also met with the University of Iowa Entrepreneurial Class. He is waiting to meet with the 3 year old preschool representatives.

Grants –

\$10,000 from Prairie Meadows towards the new ambulance purchase.

Jasper Community Foundation - \$1,888 to the City of PC for new sound equipment (first use will be for Prairie Days)

Jasper Community Foundation - \$5,000 to the Hometown Pride program to help defray the program costs for Jasper County

Federal Lands Access Program for Trail – this will be discussed more at the trail meeting on the 26th.

Will need to be looking for grant opportunities for the proposed new Fire/EMS Building. Fire Chief Ryan VanDerKamp and Ambulance Director Cody Wenthe met with council liasons and Mayor Allegre regarding the department needs. The fire department has the ability to obtain a new truck (purchased by the Walnut Creek Fire District) to replace the 22 year old truck, but the new truck will not fit in the current fire station. Not only is the building full, it is not physically big enough to house the truck. They are looking at the possibility of putting a new building where the t-ball field was, across from the City Hall. They would like a building with 4 bays and a conference room. They are also looking at using a general obligation bond. Linda suggested

they hire a consultant to do a needs assessment like the library did. The assessment results are a very useful tool when applying for funding.

Other news –

Mingo and Kellogg are joining Hometown Pride.

Friday, August 12th is Jasper County Day at the Iowa State Fair. Jasper County volunteer slots are full. If anyone would still like to volunteer, there are slots on other days that are still available.

Prairie City City Administrator – With the resignation of Manny Toribio, the city is currently taking applications for a new City Administrator. The application deadline is July 29th. To date, the City has received 15 applications. The admin team will meet the following Tuesday to narrow the field to interview before they meet with the full city council.

Jeff D will be on vacation from August 16 – 20th and 23 – 31st. He will be available via email.

It was decided to not meet in August, but we will look at having a trail meeting in early September.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Sue Ponder, Secretary Pro-tem