

Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee
Prairie City City Hall
Minutes
September 26, 2016

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

Present: Chairperson Tony Ladehoff, Sue Ponder, Joan Van Gorp, Kirsten Weiland, Kristin Beiner, Dianne Taylor, Mayor Chad Alleger, City Council Representative Lyle Burkett, Jasper County Hometown Pride community Coach Jeff Davidson.

Dianne Taylor moved that the minutes of the July 25, 2016 meeting be approved with a correction to show that Mary Baker is planning on meeting with the Ministerial Association to discuss the survey regarding the senior activity project. Chad second. Passed all ayes.

Regional Rail Trail Development

- The Jasper County Board of Supervisor approved the purchase of the railroad right of way. We will use the \$75,000 REAP grant to purchase the railroad right of way from the Board of Supervisors. We may have some money left from the grant to help build the trail.
- Monroe received a Wellmark grant for the section between Monroe and County road F62.
- Lori Martin, Keri Van Zante, Andrea Bolton and Jeff are working on an application for a Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) grant in the amount of \$1.2 million.
- Jeff met with U of I Civil Engineering Professor Hanley regarding a possible project to look at alternatives to connect the Mitchellville and Altoona pieces of the trail. We will not be able to use the railroad right of way because the railroad is using it to park rail cars. It's two or three miles around the area where the cars are parked. We would be assisted by Polk County officials since the connection is in Polk County.

Request for Donation

Christian James presented information to the committee about a fundraiser he's doing to raise money for the Compassion Fund at Unity Point Blank Hospital. The money would be used to pay for gas and meal cards for family members with children at Blank. Mr. James is a softball bat expert. He's going to make and sell videos to raise money. The cost would be \$300 per sponsor to pay for the \$7,000 – 8,000 cost of making the videos. He is hoping to raise the money by November, 2016. The committee has no funds to donate and didn't take any action on the request.

Old Business

- There was a brief update on the senior program that Mary Baker is trying to start. There is one survey at the library. Grace Alive Church has provided the surveys to their members. It was agreed that the item be removed from the agenda of the Hometown Pride Committee for now.
- Jeff and Chaz Allen are still working on the housing market study which would include Prairie City.

- Kat McClure is engaging entrepreneurial support from the entrepreneurial center at the University of Iowa for a \$500 fee. Kat asked the Prairie City Economic Development Commission for funds to pay the \$500 fee. Christina Kuecker would like to open a coffee shop in Prairie City.
- The City Council has a workshop on September 22 to discuss the SAFER grant mentioned by Cody Wenthe. There are possibly an Assistance to Fire Fighters grant and FEMA funds that could be used on the Fire/EMS building. Estimates on the project range from \$450,000 to over \$1 million. Prairie City paid HR Green \$10,000 a couple of years ago for plans for the building.
- There was no update on downtown wi-fi.
- There was no update on the possibility of a childcare center in Prairie City.

Grant Status

- Prairie Meadows approved a grant in the amount of \$10,000 for a new ambulance.
- Jasper County Foundation approved \$1888 for a sound system for Garden Square Park.
- Jasper County Foundation also approved \$5000 to support the Hometown Pride program.

Items from Community Coach

- Two more towns, Mingo and Kellogg, have joined Jasper County Hometown Pride.
- The University of Illinois will be having a meeting about their Community Resiliency Project. Jeff and Sheryl from NSNWR will attend the meeting.
- Colfax Rock the Quarry fundraiser raised \$3000 - \$4000.
- Prairie City Farmers Market: The Prairie City Business Association sponsors the market. Sheryl Plate said the market is vendor driven and that's why they moved it to Saturday. Jeff mentioned that the Newton Farmers Market is held on Tuesday afternoon/evening and it has been more successful this year.

The next meeting will be October 24 at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Taylor
Recording Secretary