

Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee
Prairie City City Hall
Minutes
November 28, 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, Joan Van Gorp, Linda Frazier, Sue Ponder, Dianne Taylor, City Administrator Lori Martin, Mayor Chad Alleger, Jasper County Hometown Pride Community Coach Jeff Davidson.

Linda moved that the minutes of the October 24 meeting be approved. Second by Joan. Passed.

Regional Rail Trail Development

Jeff reported that Prairie City will use the REAP grant to purchase the land in Prairie City. Lori Martin will follow up on this.

Monroe received a \$10,000 grant from Wellmark to grade and rock from the Diamond Tail to Red Rock Park.

We will hear sometime after the first of the year about the Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) grant.

We need to consider organizing a friends group for the trail. The Chautauqua Valley Trail has a friends group.

A project request was submitted to the University of Iowa capstone class to look at alternatives to connect the trail from Mitchellville to Altoona. Jeff has not heard if the project was accepted.

Old Business

Jasper County Housing Market Study

The Jasper County Housing Market Study is underway. The study is being funded by JEDCO and utility companies. There will be no charge to the individual communities. There will be five site visits that will involve all nine communities. The meetings will be an hour and the schedule is:

December 15:

- 10:30 a.m. Newton
- 1 p.m. Mingo/Baxter
- 3 p.m. Colfax/Kellogg
- 5 p.m. Prairie City/Monroe

December 16:

- 10 a.m. Lynnville/Sully

The final report will address all of Jasper County and will have a separate report for each city. The report will look at the existing housing supply and price points. There will not be anything in the report about local incentives.

We need to reach out to realtors, land developers, bankers, housing advocates, and people in the Prairie City area with land and let them know about the meeting. The following names were brainstormed as individuals/organizations that we want to invite to the meeting:

- Realtors: Kathy Macy, Jill Veenstra, Lori Storm
- Insurance/Banking: Melanie Umble and Sheryl Plate
- Builders: Phil Webb
- PCM School District
- Surrounding property owners

2017 Pedal the Prairie

Pedal the Prairie is scheduled for May 20, 2017 at 9 am. This year there will not be a meal at the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge. Would the Prairie City Celebration Committee be interested in being a part of this event? If yes, Rick Hager will need information by early January. Rick will be attending the Iowa Bike Expo on January 21 and will need advance time to put together information for that event. Proposed Committee: Linda Frazier, Christy Steenhoek, Todd Fiechter/Steve Wilkie, Rick Hager.

Prairie City Entrepreneurial Business Ideas

Kat McClure was accepted into the University of Iowa Entrepreneurial Assistance Program, but we don't know if she signed the contract. There is a \$500 fee and Kat would like the Prairie City Economic Development Corporation to pay the fee.

Senior Housing

There are no senior housing units in Prairie City, Colfax or Monroe. Jeff met with Terri Rosonke, Iowa Finance Authority about financing senior housing. There needs to be local builder who might be interest in building the senior housing. IFA wants all the details worked out and a plan developed by a builder before they consider financing a project.

Fire/EMS Building Project

No update.

Mediacom/Century Link re downtown WIFI

No update.

Update on possibility of a childcare center.

There was no update. This item will be removed from future agendas.

Farmer's Market

Kirsten Wieland was unable to attend the meeting but did send an email indicating that she has volunteered to put together a PC Farmer's Market committee for the upcoming 2017 Farmer's Market season. Anyone interested in working with her and a small group to coordinate the Farmers Market should let Kirsten know. Kirsten is working on a survey to send to the newspaper and electronically to residents. Dianne told Kirsten that she has a subscription to Survey Monkey and could help with the electronic survey.

Grant Status

Prairie Meadows approved a grant in the amount of \$10,000 for a new ambulance. Prairie City needs a letter of intent.

REAP Grant - \$75,000 for trail acquisition.

There is a new grant cycle starting in December. Possible grants for 2017:

- January 27 Prairie Meadows
- February 17 Paint Iowa Beautiful. Two projects were mentioned for this grant: the bandstand and the old laundromat that is being developed into a place for batting practice. The normal amount of paint that is available for a project is 10-15 gallons.
- March 3 Yo-Ho Tools. Can get up to \$200 in tools.
- March 30 Build with Bags
- Jasper County Foundation has not set a deadline yet.
- Casey's Foundation may be another place we could apply for a grant.

Items from Community Coach

- Keep Iowa Beautiful Byers Environmental College Scholarships. There are five scholarships and information is on the website. The deadline for the scholarship is January 6.

The next meeting will be January 23, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Taylor
Recording Secretary