

Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee
Prairie City City Hall
Minutes
January 23, 2017

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, Sue Ponder, Dianne Taylor, City Council Representative Lyle Burkett, City Administrator Lori Martin, Mayor Chad Alleger, Jasper County Hometown Pride Community Coach Jeff Davidson.

Jeff noted that the name of the Chichaqua Valley Trail name was misspelled in the minutes. Lori moved to approve the corrected minutes of the November 28, 2016. Second by Sue. Passed.

Regional Rail Trail Development

An appraisal must be completed of the land within city limits of Prairie City. Lori reported that the city has signed a purchase agreement with Jasper County to buy the land.

FLAP Grant and Trail Development

Prairie City was notified that a FLAP grant in the amount of \$510,000 has been approved. The Federal Recreational Trails Grant used to purchase the trail property has \$260,000 remaining and a similar State Recreational Trails Grant has \$116,000 remaining. The three grants total \$886,000. We will start paving the trail at the Neal Smith national Wildlife Refuge and go to Monroe. The estimated cost is \$130,000 per mile using a hot mix asphalt. Jeff noted that the U of I students noted that concrete would cost around \$275,000 per mile.

Jeff pointed out that the Federal and State Recreation Trails Grants can only be used for trails – not for roads.

The Jasper County Conservation Board will oversee the projects. Jasper County Conservation is unable to assist with design so we will need to pay \$80,000 - \$120,000 for design work for the trail.

When we start building the trail will depend on when go out for construction bids. We will try and judge the bidding climate. The project should be completed by the end of calendar 2018.

Jeff has had a conversation with the Department of Transportation about paving the shoulder of the road and painting lines to keep the bikes and vehicles on their part of the road over the bridge on the west side of Prairie City that leads to the NSNWR. It is doable.

Jeff reported that another source of funds for the Mitchellville – Altoona connection will come from the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP). There is around \$500,000 that is available each year through the Central Iowa Regional Transportation Planning Authority.

The University of Iowa didn't choose our project to look at the trail connection between Mitchellville and Altoona. Mainly structural projects this year. We will try again. Representatives from Altoona, Pleasant Hill and Polk County will assist.

Friends Group

We will need a name for the trail. We need to generate some ideas and make a recommendation to the Jasper County Board of Supervisors. The Supervisors must approve the name of the trail. The Friends of the Chichaqua Valley Trail will help us form a Friends group.

Old Business

Jasper County Housing Market Study

There was good representation from realtors, land developers, bankers, housing advocates, school districts and community members at the housing study meetings that were held in December throughout the county. RDG will be back on February 16 to do presentations at three sites in the county.

The final report will address all of Jasper County and will have a separate report for each city.

2017 Pedal the Prairie

Pedal the Prairie is scheduled for May 20, 2017 at 9 am. NSNWR staff attended the Bike Expo on January 21. Rick Hager is the Pedal the Prairie contact at NSNWR.

Chad reported that the Celebration Committee doesn't have any money, but have a bouncy house that can be used the day of Pedal the Prairie. The Business Association has not determined their level of involvement in the event. There was discussion about the Farmer's Market being available the day of Pedal the Prairie. There will not be a meal offered at NSNWR that day. We discussed having food vendors in the downtown City Park to draw participants to the downtown area.

Kristin Weiland arrived at the meeting.

Lori reported that Rick said that there will be publicity on the NSNWR Facebook page leading up to the event. If there are things going on in Prairie City on May 20, they are willing to share those events the NSNWR page.

Senior Housing

There was discussion about the lack of senior housing at the last Coffee with the Mayor event. Both Chaz Allen and Wes Breckenridge were at the coffee. One option that was discussed that day was a Newton nursing home building an assisted-living property in Prairie City that would feed into the nursing home.

Fire/EMS Building Project

No update.

Mediacom/Century Link re downtown WIFI

Lori has talked to MediaCom. The City has free wifi for City Hall, but there wasn't further discussion about offering service to the entire town. Lori hasn't had a chance to talk with CenturyLink.

Farmer's Market

Kirsten Wieland reported that she will be meeting with Graham Sullivan of the Newton Farmer's Market the week of January 30. Prairie City renewed their membership in the Farmers Market Association. Kristin will be attending the associations meeting Saturday, February 4. She has been working on a survey and will finalize it after meeting with Graham and attending the February 4 meeting.

Grant Status

Prairie Meadows approved a 2016 grant in the amount of \$10,000 for a new ambulance. The grant money went to the Prairie Reserve Association and they will donate to the City. The new ambulance is on its way.

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

Sue, Chief Bartello and Jeff worked on two grant applications for Prairie Meadows grants. One was for auto door closers for the library and the other is multi-threat response equipment for the police department.

February 17 is the deadline for the Paint Iowa Beautiful grant. Jeff and Lori will work on a grant to get some paint to paint the bandstand.

Sue will talk with the Garden Club to see if they have interest in applying for the Yo-Ho Tools grant. Can get up to \$200 in tools.

We will talk about ideas for the Build with Bags grant at the February meeting.

Jasper County Foundation has not set a deadline for the grant application process.

Items from Community Coach

Jeff reviewed the Keep Iowa Beautiful School Garden 101 Program.

The next meeting will be February 27 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Taylor
Recording Secretary