

## **Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee**

**February 27, 2017**

**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.

Acting Chairperson Linda called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm. Lori made the motion to approve the minutes, Joan seconded. Motion passed.

### ***Old Business -***

#### **Regional Rail to Trail**

We will be using the \$510,000 from the FLAP grant along with \$200-\$300,000 in funds that remain from the acquisition grant.

Construction will be administered by Jasper County Conversation with them working with Prairie City and Monroe on the trail portions within the city limits.

Jasper County Secondary Roads Department will not be able to work on the trail design so the project will need to hire a design engineer firm.

The project will go out to bid this coming winter with construction/paving in spring/summer of 2018.

This first phase of the project will be to pave the trail from the refuge trail to as close to Monroe as possible.

Chairperson Tony arrived at 6:10 p.m.

Jeff again emphasized the impact a regional bike trail can have on a community's economic development. He encouraged us to discuss that with other community members and the Board of Supervisors.

Jeff shared that there is a group that started in Missouri called Pedalers' Jamboree. It is a private/for profit group that organizes rides. There is now an Iowa branch of the group and they have organized a ride this summer on the Chichaqua Valley Trail August 26 & 27. The ride will start with a campout in Baxter, the riders will bike to Ira, Mingo and Bondurant with music and food in each town. The bikers can camp in Bondurant, then bike back the next day. Pedalers' Jamboree works with the communities and helps provide the entertainment, food and whatever else the town doesn't want to do. Jeff has already told them that our trail would make a great ride in the future.

### ***Old Business -***

**Jasper County Housing Market Study** – The presentations went well and the final report is being worked on. Prairie City and Monroe are the fastest growing parts of Jasper County. Any changes (like the vacancy rate) should be sent in ASAP.

The City should look into lot development through incentives and reclaiming existing lots with homes that need demolished since the infrastructure would already be in place.

**Fire/EMS Building** – Jeff is working with Police Chief Bartello on a proposal to take to the City Council.

### **Downtown wi-fi – No update**

**Farmer's Market** - Kirsten shared the survey is underway with over 90 online responses alone. It is set to close on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Once the results of the online and paper surveys are tabulated, the PCBA will set the date/time and can work more on getting vendor commitments. So far she has had 17 vendors state they were interested and 15-20 people said they were willing to volunteer. She attended the Farmers Market Association workshop and has met with the head of the Newton Farmers Market, Graham Sullivan. She will be meeting with a representative of Wellmark's Healthy Hometown Program to see how we can benefit from that.

### **Grant Status –**

**Prairie Meadows Grant** – The ambulance is on its way.

We haven't heard on this year's grant applications for the Friends of the Library and Police Department.

**REAP** – Lori said the appraisal research company is currently working on the appraisal of the trail land.

**Paint Iowa Beautiful** – no application

### **Upcoming grant deadlines**

**Build with Bags** – Chad will refer to Park Board to see if they want to apply for a grant. Jeff offered to help them. Deadline is March 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Jasper Community Foundation** – Not due until April 15<sup>th</sup>, which is 2 weeks after our next meeting. Bring application ideas to the next meeting.

Linda mentioned a grant opportunity from USA Today. It is a national grant that awards two \$50,000 grants and one \$100,000 grant. Committee members were encouraged to send in videos.

### **Community Coach Information/Other Business -**

April is Keep Iowa Beautiful Month

Newton with ISU Extension Service is offering a community leadership program and are opening up to others in the county. It will meet 8 times in the evening, but the dates have not yet been released. Let Jeff know if you are interested.

**Our next meeting is March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**

Anyone interested in the Pedal the Prairie event was invited to stay the meeting about that immediately following our meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:58 pm.

*Sue Ponder, Secretary Pro-tem*