

Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee
Prairie City City Hall
Minutes
March 27, 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, Sue Ponder, Dianne Taylor, Kirsten Wieland, City Administrator Lori Martin, Mayor Chad Alleger, City Council Representative Lyle Burkett, Jasper County Hometown Pride Community Coach Jeff Davidson.

Minutes: Motion by Chad to approve the minutes with two corrections. Correct Lori Martin's title to City Administrator and add Cindy Kane, City Clerk as attendee. Second by Linda. Passed.

Regional Rail Trail Development

Keri Van Zante, director of Jasper County Conservation, is working on reclaiming the property lines along the railroad. There is a 80-100 foot right of way and some are farming up to and over the railroad bed. The boundaries will be marked.

Prairie City is waiting for a purchase agreement for the Prairie City section of the trail. City Attorney John Judisch will review the agreement.

The Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) grant will be used for trail design and construction. Because it's a federal grant, we will need to do a request for proposal for the work. Jeff reported that we hope to begin getting bids this winter.

The committee will need to determine the name of the trail. The Jasper County Conservation Board must approve the name. Jeff asked if there was a historic preservation group in the area. Trail names brainstormed from Monroe Hometown Pride meeting and the Prairie City Hometown Pride meeting: White Pole, Diamond Trail, Wild Plains Trail, Grand Prairie Trail, Potato Digger Tail, Rattlesnake Master Trail, Des Moines Valley Railroad Trail, Big blue Stem Trail, Tallgrass Prairie Trail, Old Settlers Trail, Blue Line Bike Trail. Jeff encouraged the group to continue to brainstorm names to share at the May meeting.

There is a two-mile stretch between Mitchellville and the Gay Lea Wilson Trail. This summer Jeff Davidson and Vern Wiley will walk the area to check out alternatives for the path of the trail. It's a critical connection to the Des Moines metro trails. Polk County Conservation will also be involved.

Roof Repairs for Downtown Businesses

There was discussion about the availability of financial options for a local business, Robert's True Value, that needs some extensive roof repairs. Any grants for repair/renovation projects would need a match by the City of Prairie City. Prairie City has a TIFF area, but the business is not in the area. Jeff explained that there are two types of TIFF. One is for economic development and expires after 20 years. The other is for slum/blight areas and has a generous

definition in the code and has not specific timeframe. There may be low-interest loans available under the slum/blight part of TIFF.

Lyle asked where the trail will go through Prairie City. Jeff said the committee can look at what the University of Iowa student report suggested for options. The Prairie City City Council will make the final decision.

Old Business

Pedal the Prairie: There are several vendors and businesses interested in participating in the event. Coffee, plants and a wine tasting at Prairie City Foods. There will be a bags tournament. Wilke's and Stampede will have specials. There are vendors interested in participating in art in the city park.

Fire/EMS building project: There is a meeting next week and information will be shared with the City Council.

Downtown WIFI: Chad has reached out to CenturyLink about establishing a wifi for public use in the downtown area. No reply. Chad will contact Mediacom.

Farmers Market: Kirsten reported that there were 204 responses to the farmers market survey—116 were online and 88 were paper. The Farmer's Market will be 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. on Thursday night and will run from May 25 - October 12. There may be some pop-up markets after that. A Facebook page has been established.

Grant Status

- Prairie Meadows: \$10,000 grant from 2016 for new ambulance is on the way. Should have on May 1.
- Prairie Meadows 2017 grants: Two applications for police and library. No word.
- REAP: Waiting for a purchase agreement to release the \$75,000 grant for trail acquisition.
- Jasper County Foundation: The foundation has \$93,000 available for distribution.
- Iowa Arts: Jeff mentioned that there is a grant available with a one to one match.

Community Coach Information/Committee Information/Other business

- Jeff will be attending a Trail Economic Development Conference in Perry at the Hotel Pattee on March 30.
- April is Keep Iowa Beautiful month.
- Jeff shared information about an ISU Extension/Newton Hometown Pride community leadership program. The program will begin in May and run until November. The training is open for up to 25 people. Let Jeff know if you are interested.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Dianne Taylor
Recording Secretary