

Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee
Prairie City City Hall
Minutes
July 24, 2017

The meeting of the Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee was called to order by Chairman Tony Ladehoff at 6:03 p.m.

Present: Tony Ladehoff, Dianne Taylor, Linda Frazier, Joan Van Gorp, Sue Ponder, Lyle Burkhart, Jasper County Hometown Pride Community Coach Jeff Davidson.

Minutes: Motion by Linda to approve the May 22, 2017 minutes. Dianne second. Passed.

Mayor Chad Alleger arrived at 6:07 p.m.

Regional Rail Trail Development

The check was sent for the purchase of the property within Prairie City. Staff needs to work toward getting REAP grant closed out. An email should be sent to Kari Van Zante to determine the status of the deed for the Prairie City part of the purchase.

Phase 1 design Request for Qualification was approved by the Jasper County Conservation Board for the Monroe trail head to the entrance of the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge. Kari sent the RFQ to 18 design and engineering firms and they have about three weeks to respond. There are currently \$800,000 in funds available for the project. Proposals are expected by mid-August and there will be interviews with the top three companies if needed. Bidding for the project will probably be in the March/April 2018 timeframe.

Trail Name: The Monroe Hometown Pride Committee suggested a compromise for the trail name. Dianne moved that we recommend to the Jasper County Conservation Committee that the trail from Monroe to Mitchellville be named the Red Rock Prairie Trail. Linda seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business

Fire/EMS building project: No report.

Downtown WiFi: No report.

Farmers Market: Consensus was that the Farmers Market is off to a good start with produce and other vendors. The vibe is very positive. The Taco Truck from Colfax has been a hit.

Platting of additional residential lots: Chad has had some informal discussions with a landowner.

Grant Status

Prairie Meadows 2016 grant for new ambulance. Sue will check and see if the grant has been closed out.

REAP grant: Jeff reported that the appraisal for the land could be paid by these funds. When all eligible expenses have been paid, the grant will need to be closed out.

Prairie Meadows 2017 \$2500 grant for police equipment. Equipment is in the process of being ordered.

Prairie Meadows 2017 \$3375 grant to Library for accessibility. Sue reported that the door openers have been installed.

Community Coach Information/Committee Information/Other business

Jeff and the Sac County Hometown Pride Committee Coach will present at the League of Cities Fall Conference in Davenport.

There is still a need for volunteers for the Keep Iowa Beautiful booth at the Iowa State Fair. Jeff will send the link to sign up.

Jeff encouraged us to check out the Pedaler's Jamboree that will be on the Chichaqua Valley Trail on August 26-27.

Jeff gave an overview of the Newton Jewel Tea Court housing project. City of Newton bought a ½ x ¼ block area and tore down dangerous properties at a cost of \$100,00 to clear the properties. The project is near Skiff Hospital at 4th and 4th. The properties were designed by DePenning from Pella. They are condos are on cement slabs with a storm room. Other details: \$175,000 base price, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, den, 2 car garage, HVAC is in the attic., accessible. There is a \$150 monthly condo association fee. The properties are selling well. The city also paid \$40,000 for the construction companies to put in infrastructure.

Other

Linda reported that she had met with Jeff Jones at Heartland Coop about redoing the mural on the coop building on the south side of the downtown park. Jeff told Linda that the City of Prairie City had a lease for the wall from 2004 until it expired in 2015. There would be a need for another lease, but Heartland has no problem with the mural being repainted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Dianne Taylor
Recording Secretary