

Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee
Prairie City City Hall
Minutes
October 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, Linda Frazier, Dianne Taylor, Sue Ponder, Chad Alleger, Lyle Burkett, Joe Bartello, Kirsten Wieland and Jasper County Hometown Pride community coach Jeff Davidson.

Dianne moved to approve the September 25 meeting minutes. Lyle seconded. Passed.

New Business

The Prairie City Business Association and the Celebration Committee are sponsoring Trunk or Treat/Halloween Walk.

Sue shared that two families had volunteered to do something for Make a Difference Day on October 28.

Regional Rail Trail Development

Joe said that he had sent REAP grant information to Cindy Kane. Joe will follow up to verify that the city has received the deed for the land.

A draft contract has been received from Snyder and Associates to design the first phase of the Red Rock Prairie Trail. The contract will be sent to the Iowa Department of Transportation to verify that the design will comply with their requirements. Jeff said that the project will be let by Iowa DOT and subject to their schedule. It is still hoped to have construction underway next year.

It is hoped to augment Phase 1 construction funds through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) which is funded through the Highway Trust Fund. There is \$1,000,000 for the Central Iowa Regional Transportation Planning Association which Jasper County is part of. TAP funds can only be used to build trails and their priority is railroad trails. Hometown Pride is working with Jasper County Conservation and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation.

Jeff made a presentation to the Monroe City Council on October 9. They are focused on the trail head at Red Rock Park in Monroe.

Garden Square Park Bandstand

Only one contractor came out to give a bid. The following need to be done: new roof, underlayment, fascia needs to be replaced, electrical needs to be updated. Estimated cost is \$25,000.

Grants to be considered for the work: Jasper Community Foundation and Prairie Meadows. There are some historical grants but they are very specific and are normally used to do a historical site declaration.

Sue is looking for a 1931 photo of the Bandstand because it was dedicated around that time. A preservation historian can tell us what kind of lights there were in the 1931 timeframe.

Old Business

Heartland Coop Mural

Linda contacted Hallie Siepman who is working on the Newton murals. Linda sent her pictures of the mural on the Coop building. Hallie came to Prairie City and check out the mural. Hallie would not be available to work on the mural until next summer. She will get back to Linda with an estimated cost for the project. Hallie would need a lift to paint the mural. She said that she could paint in the Red Rock Prairie Trail. Hallie said a contact regarding funding the project is Kelly Carr at the University of Iowa. Newton received two grants for \$6000 and \$7000 of the \$15,000 of the cost of the Newton mural restoration project.

Senior Housing

We would need to come up with a site for a senior housing unit. Is there something in Prairie City that could be demolished so that there would be a site to build on.

Newton Jewel Tea Court project received incentives (15-20%) of the cost of the project. A duplex might be a starting point in Prairie City. Can we pay ourselves back through TIF? Could we have a daycare in the same building? Jeff noted that most state financing programs require 40-45 units.

Pella Regional Hospital Medical Clinic

Joe and Jeff met with hospital staff about the project to build a new clinic building.

Ash Tree Replacement

The trees are planted. Funds from a Trees Please grant received in March, 2016 were used to pay for the trees.

Fire/EMS Building Project

Joe stated this project is not currently a high priority.

Downtown WiFi

No report

Farmers Market

The Farmers Market was wrapped up for this year on October 18. All agreed it was a significantly improved market this year. Kirsten will do a survey over the winter in preparation for the 2018 farmers market season. Kirsten noted that the Farmers Market didn't pick up much traffic from the Bike Night activities.

Question: Can we project a sign advertising the market on the Co-op?

Grant Status

- Prairie Meadows grant has been closed out.
- REAP grant has not been closed out. In progress.
- Prairie Meadows grant for police threat detection equipment: equipment installed in one vehicle.

- Prairie Meadows grant for library accessibility: openers are installed and grant has been closed out.
- Prairie Meadows grant cycle will open this fall. We will talk about grant opportunities at the November meeting.

Community Coach Information/Other Business

- Keep Iowa Beautiful art program is in the works. Jasper County and Warren County Hometown Pride towns are eligible. Committee members expressed interest. Jeff will keep the committee in the loop.
- The Library Board is meeting with Maryann Mori in November to discuss the report from the planning meeting.
- Linda reported that the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge Friends Board and some of the NSNWR employees participated in mentoring sessions.
- We need to start thinking about getting a Friends of the Red Rock Prairie Trail group organized.

The next meeting is November 27 at 6 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Taylor, Recording Secretary