

Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee Minutes
September 24, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Chairman Tony Ladehoff.

Present: Tony Ladehoff, Joan Van Gorp, Linda Frazier, Sue Ponder, Dianne Taylor, Kirsten Wieland, Joe Bartello and Hometown Pride Community Coach Jeff Davidson.

Chad Alleger arrived at 6:03 p.m.

Dianne moved that the August 27 minutes be approved. Linda seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Red Rock Prairie Trail Development

Jeff worked with Keri Van Zante to submit the State Recreation Trails grant application for \$250,000. REAP grant applications were submitted for Prairie City and for Monroe for \$75,000 each. Jeff is helping Keri file the application for the Federal Recreation Trails grant by the end of the week. The application will be for a \$600,000 grant. The grant is administered by the Iowa DOT. The Jasper County Board of Supervisors approved donating \$330,000 of the Mid American Energy easement funds to the Red Rock Prairie Trail. Mid American also donated \$85,000 of the easement funds to the Monroe trailhead project. Joe will follow up with the Monroe City Clerk and ask what Monroe did to secure the funds. Nothing new on the connection from Mitchellville to Des Moines.

Garden Square Bandstand Rehab

Sue Ponder reported that the roof has been completed on the bandstand. Sue reached out to Van Maanen Electric and Gritters Electric for two more bids on the electrical work. Van Maanen Electric came out but has not submitted a bid. Gritters Electric didn't reply to the request. There was some confusion about the actual electrical work to be done on the project. Sue and Joe will follow up on the actual scope of the electrical work. After the electrical work, the bandstand will need to be painted. A rededication of the bandstand will happen after all the work is complete.

Old Business

Murals: Linda has not heard back from Jimmy about painting the murals. Kirsten gave another name of someone who might be interested in the project. Terri Rosonke talked to Joe about a potential art grant for the project. Joe also mentioned applying for a WalMart grant.

Senior/LMI Housing: Joe shared that the City's financial planner had mentioned using LMI funds for utility rates for low income home owners. The City has three lots for sale. They are not designed for LMI. PCBA: No report. Didn't have a meeting in September.

Farmers' Market: September 27 will be the last market of the year. Kirsten is working on a Winter Market that will be held in December at the Family Life Center. She'll be inviting the vendors who were at the market the past two years. The Prairie City Farmers Market and Newton Farmers Market applied for a SNAP EBT grant and did not receive the grant. Kirsten said they received some good feedback that will be helpful when they apply for the grant in the future.

Library Expansion: The September 24 meeting at the Community Building is to gauge public opinion on whether the library should be expanded.

Status of opening up more residential subdivision ground: Very promising. Will be meeting with a landowner and contractor this Friday. The land is within the city limits and will not need to be annexed.

EDC: Prairie City will be having a meeting to review the downtown exchange with Montezuma on October 1 at 11 a.m. at City Hall. Montezuma representatives came to Prairie City recently and assessed the downtown area. Prairie City representatives went to Montezuma and assessed their downtown area.

Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge: Joan reported that there will be a 25th anniversary celebration on September 30 at the NSNWR. There will be a "Friends of the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge" t-shirt for sale at the event. There will be seed gathering on September 29 and October 13. On November 17 there will be an open house at the Nature Store. Joan also shared that there are projects underway to redo the lighting and audio in the theatre at NSNWR.

Grant Status

2016 REAP grant in the amount of \$75,000 has been closed out.

2018 TAP grant was awarded to Jasper County Conservation in the amount of \$240,000. Prairie City has a \$20,000 match for the grant.

2018 Prairie Meadows grant for Garden Square Park Bandstand was \$5000.

2018 Jasper Community Foundation grant received in the amount of \$3350 for Garden Square Park Bandstand.

Christy Lindsey got a grant for paint for the Community Building from Paint Iowa Beautiful.

2018 REAP grant application submitted for the trail (\$75,000).

Keri Van Zante and Jeff are working on a 2018 Federal Rec Trails grant that is due on October 1.

Catalyst grant: Joe is going to an Iowa Economic Development workshop to learn more about the grants. The grants are \$50,000 – 100,000 and are for external space projects. Debbie Durham will decide what 10 projects get funded.

Community Coach Information/Other Business

Jeff will be attending the Iowa Trails Summit on October 12 at Lake Panorama. Topics discussed will include trail promotion, economic development impact and setting up a friend's group.

Friends of the Red Rock Prairie Trail: Sue Ponder and Chris Thomas are the two people currently in our friends' group. The group will ultimately include individuals from towns all along the trail. We will wait until 2019 to formally set up the friend's group.

The next meeting will be October 22 at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

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

Dianne Taylor
Recording Secretary