

Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee Minutes
November 26, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Mayor Chad Alleger.

Present: Joan Van Gorp, Sue Ponder, Dianne Taylor, Linda Frazier, Chad Alleger, Joe Bartello and Hometown Pride Community Coach Jeff Davidson.

Sue moved that the minutes be approved. Joan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Red Rock Prairie Trail Development

Rich Volker – Snyder has all the survey work done and is starting the design phase. If there is anything we want to tie into the trail we need to let them know now. We will have an option to review the plans after when they are finished and before the contract letting. DOT letting will be late winter/early spring. Summer construction with an estimate of 60-90 days for construction. All will be handled through Jasper County Conservation office. The trail will run on the west side of the water treatment plant.

Joe asked about connecting the trail to Colfax. Jeff suggested letting the DOT know if they plan to do work on the HWY 117 to determine if the road shoulders can be widened to accommodate bike traffic.

The Federal Rec Trail grant is still pending. Should know by the end of December. Worst case scenario would be that we would have to chip seal the middle of the trail between Prairie City and Monroe.

No news on the connection to the Des Moines trail system at Mitchellville.

Garden Square Bandstand Rehab

Ryan Van Der Kamp started electrical work. It is trenched in. The painting will happen in Spring 2019. The bandstand project was featured in the Fall Keep Iowa Beautiful Newsletter.
<https://keepiowabeautiful.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018-KIB-Fall-News.pdf>

Old Business

Murals: Linda met with the new Heartland Coop manager. He was unaware of the contract the City of Prairie City has with the Heartland Coop for the mural. Linda sent an email update to everyone on the committee. There is still a possibility that the U of Iowa art students could work on the mural. In Bondurant there were some high school students who painted a mural. They did it for the cost of materials.

Newton: \$16,000 for four murals.

Senior/LMI housing: Pella Company still working on a project proposal for Prairie City. Joe reported that he would be meeting with them later in the week.

PCBA update: (Kirsten) Small Business Saturday at On Jefferson Street had a successful Lots of foot traffic and we were able to represent 6 locally owned small businesses at our one event. The grand opening/ribbon cutting for the Swann Room went well. Kat is up and running in her new space and we look forward to seeing that venture grow. Winter Market and Winter FEST will be December 8 from 1-4 p.m. at the Family Life Center. Volunteers are needed for the event. Wellness center: Hope to move into the new space in January.

PCBA Electronic Sign: Voted to move forward with it. The EDC has questions. They want to move the sign further west by a power pole. The Council liaison said that 3 people had concerns about the cost.

Library expansion plan: The plan was presented to the City Council. Looking at forming a foundation.

Opening more residential ground: Meeting tomorrow with developer. Want to go public with the project. There are TIFF questions to be answered. Jeff mentioned potential financial impact on 2020 budget.

EDC: Joe wants to put together a small consulting group (Kat, Hometown Pride Committee member). Go to each business, share what was learned from the downtown exchange and pitch the façade grant.

Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge update: Received a grant to replace the signs at the kiosk by the bison. Project should be done by April. December 8: will do a craft at a meeting. January: NSNWR will be at the Bike Expo in January.

Sue said that the kiosk needs to be stained. Perhaps we could get the stain from Keep Iowa Beautiful.

Non-profit foundations: Need to think about how we will access a non-profit after we are finished with Hometown Pride.

2019 Prairie Meadows and Jasper Community Foundation: Be thinking of ideas to apply for grants.

Chad Alleger left at 6:45 p.m. Joe Bartello began to preside over the meeting.

Grant Status

TAP grant was awarded to Jasper Conservation Commission (\$240,000). Prairie City's match was \$20,000.

Received a \$5000 Prairie Meadows grant for Garden Square Park.

Received \$3350 Jasper Community Foundation award for the Garden Square Park Bandstand.

2018 Paint Iowa Beautiful grant been closed out? Joe reported the painting was done last week. Need to close out the grant.

2019 Paint Iowa Beautiful grant open until February 15, 2019.

Prairie City was not eligible for a Mid American Energy easement funds. The project ends outside of Prairie City.

2018 Federal Rec Trails application is pending.

Community Coach Information/Other Business

There are five \$1000 2019 Byers Environmental Scholarships available. Applications are due by January 4, 2019.

There will not be a Prairie City Hometown Pride meeting in December.

The next meeting will be Monday, January 28 at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Dianne Taylor
Recording Secretary