

Prairie City Hometown Pride Committee Minutes
January 28, 2019

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

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

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

Red Rock Prairie Trail Development

The trail is now fully funded at \$2.2 million. Kudos to Kari Van Zante, Jasper County Conservation and Hometown Pride Community Coach Jeff Davidson for their work to secure grants and funding for the project.

We can anticipate an April or May letting by the Iowa Department of Transportation. It is expected to be a 60-90 day construction period.

We will have an opportunity to review the plans for the trail. Snyder will bring two options to a future City Council meeting.

We need to make sure that everything fits smoothly – sidewalks, etc.

The trailhead will be by the bison. Riders will be able to take the Plainsman Trail loop.

There was no news about the connection to Mitchellville and beyond. If there is money left after the trail is complete, we could consider starting the trail to Mitchellville.

Garden Square Park Bandstand

The project work will resume this spring.

Old Business

Murals: Linda has not heard back from the Heartland Cooperative. She sent another email to Mike Dennis and has not heard back. Linda contacted Terrace Hills Golf Course regarding their mural and got their information. Kat was the muralist (515.402.0425). Linda also contacted Drake, but they had no interest.

Senior/LMI housing: Joe said there was no update. Discussions with Pella group ended.

PCBA: February 4 at 11:30 a.m. at the Swann room. The PCBA member drive is in progress. Considering moving to a Chamber organization instead of a business association. Could Hometown Pride use their 501(c)3 if they go to a Chamber organization?

Electronic sign: Joe said that the EDC had a couple of questions about how bright the sign would be at night. Will be on the next EDC agenda.

December Winter Market: Kirsten reported that the event was successful.

Library expansion plan: Sue reported that she is working on getting a foundation up and running. Jeff mentioned a special cultural levy at a maximum .27 per 1000 on property tax.

Opening up residential subdivision: Joe reported that there is an opportunity for 21 new homes. He is working with bonding counsel and attorney. There will be a hearing in February.

Prairie EDC, Main Street discussion: Jeff gave Joe some Main Street information. Main Street is a national program. Colfax and Newton are Main Street communities. There are only 48-50 towns in Iowa that are Main Street organizations. Towns under 2500 population can have a part-time director. Towns over 2500 population have full-time directors. Colfax pays their Main Street director \$70,000 per year.

Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge: Joan reported that NSNWR missed the Bike Expo. They had paid \$250 for the event but were not able to have a table because of the shutdown. Pedal the Prairie will move from May. Concert on the Prairie will be the first Friday in June. Host Country is the band.

Grant Status

2018 TAP grant, Prairie City has a local match of \$20,000.

2018 Paint Iowa Beautiful grant for the Community Building has been closed out per Joe.

2018 REAP grant for trail is \$54,801.

The Paint Iowa Beautiful grant cycle is open until February 15. There was a question about applying for stain for the welcome area by the bison.

The Prairie Meadows grant is open January 2 – February 28.

The Jasper County Foundation grant cycle will probably be open March – May.

Community Coach Information/Committee Information/Other Business

Jasper County is one of the four counties without a Housing Trust Fund. Other are Boone, Marion and Warren. The funding comes from the Iowa Finance Authority and each county could receive up to \$100,000 per year. There is discussion about setting up a Housing Trust Fund in Jasper County. The board would choose which projects to fund. If Jasper, Marion and Warren went together, they would have \$300,000 – 400,000 funded, including the 25% local match.

Changes to the Hometown Pride Program: New counties are 50/50 with Keep Iowa Beautiful to pay for their coach. We currently pay 25%.

Gerry Schnepf, Executive Director of Keep Iowa Beautiful will be retiring this year.

Jasper County is working on a comprehensive plan. They are putting together an RFP and all nine communities will be involved including some of the unincorporated areas like Valeria. JEDCO will be involved and provide some of the funding.

The next meeting will be February 25.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Dianne Taylor, Recording Secretary