Hometown Pride Meeting

Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022

Gennypher Popenhagen called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the City/School Library. Members present were Natalie Moorman, Marie Van Beek, Paul Van Beek, Peg Kimberley and Bruce Connelly.

Minutes from the December 6th and January 27th meetings were reviewed. Natalie moved to approve. Genn seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

Treasurer’s Report – Marie gave the Treasurer’s Report. $19,788.39 in undesignated funds and $216,889.57 in Geise Park funds. Peg moved to approve. Paul seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

Geise Park Updates:

Playground – BELC board has received approval from HP and the City Council on the

proposed site plan and equipment. They will proceed to order equipment with a tentative

installation in June.

Campsites – The City Council has been approached on allowing fire/cooking rings at

each campsite. They are checking with EMC insurance to see if this would affect City

insurance costs. Peg advised it will be on the March Agenda for final consideration.

Public Works Director does not want camp sites open until bathrooms have been

completed. Discussion was held on concrete pads for the picnic tables. Size will be

12’ x 12’, 4” deep. Estimating cost for material and labor at $1,000 per pad. Looking at 3 pads. Peg will contact Brian Davies on the fire rings.

Shelter House – Marie continues to work with Dan Kunkel on beginning the project

sometime this spring or early summer.

Splash Pad – Discussion was held. Peg noted Outdoor Rec was the company used

by the City of Walnut. It appears they provide the necessary engineering along with

installation. The group reviewed various projects completed by the company

on their website. Peg will contact them to see what steps might be taken to design a splash pad for Baxter’s needs and budget.

Grants – Marie has completed/submitted the Prairie Meadows grant application for the shelter house project. Peg will write the Jasper Community Grant for the campsite concrete pads and 3 fire rings. Application closes April 30th. Peg suggested the group look at a Black Hills Energy grant application for the park.

Fundraisers – None currently planned.

Natalie gave a brief report for the Chamber. The group is currently working on Main Street beautification. Members have been in contact with interested businesses to partner with providing decorated cigarette containers for areas of the business district.. The Hillbilly Bike Ride is scheduled for June 4th. There will be a band in Baxter at noon. Riders will begin in Bondurant and ride to Baxter and then return to Bondurant for the evening. HP agreed that even though the camp sites will likely not be ready in time for the ride, flyers should be distributed showing location of the future sites that will be available for riders.

Future Projects – The city-wide Easter Egg Hunt that was sponsored in 2021 by The Church of the Way was discussed. Genn will contact Julie Brandt (The Way) to see if they plan to continue with the hunt and if they would like help this year.

Genn advised while decorating the caboose area for Christmas it was noted the caboose is in very rough shape. The roof appears to be leaking and there is considerable water damage. Peg will reach out to Jasper County Conservation regarding the matter and report back.

HP By-Laws – It was agreed to table discussion until the March meeting.

March meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 31st at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room.

Natalie moved to adjourn. Peg seconded. Motion carried, all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Peg Kimberley

Secretary