Hometown Pride Meeting

March 31, 2022

Gennypher Popenhagen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room of City Hall. Members present were Marie VanBeek, Rich VanBeek, Paul VanBeek, Joann Maxwell, Leah Wall, Bruce Connelly, and Peg Kimberley. Natalie Moorman arrived later in the meeting.

Minutes from the February meeting were reviewed.

Marie gave the Treasurer’s Report. Total budget $236,677.96, same as February balance. Peg moved to approve. Paul seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

Fundraisers – Planning to work the May 5th track meet concessions. Need to be there by 4:00. This is a large meet, will make $400. Will need 8-9 people. Discussion held on whether to do the Fun Days Silent Auction again. Peg noted the auction made over $5,800 last year with relatively little work, mostly phone calls and follow-ups. Everyone agreed to the auction. Genn will check with the Fun Days Committee to see if they will allow us to hold the auction during the dance break again.

Geise Park/Shelter House – Marie advised Dan Kunkel has contacted an architect to prepare plans to begin project.

Geise Park/Campsites – Peg suggested the group forego applying for a Jasper Community Foundation Grant until the campsites are in place and the previous materials purchased through the grant are installed accordingly and the previous grant is closed properly. The group agreed. Marie moved to approve spending up to $4,500 of undesignated funds towards the concrete pads needed for picnic table installation and the three fire/cook rings from Advanced Machine Fabrication. Bruce seconded. Motion carried, all ayes. Further discussion was held on installation of a culvert to complete the walking trail. P.W. Director Bryce Halter will check on the size and type of culvert needed and advise. The group would like to see the culvert installed while earthwork is performed for the playground/shelter area.

Geise Park Playground – Nothing new to report from the BELC board other than installation has been moved up to May. Will invite the board to our next meeting to provide an update.

Geise Park Playground – Peg advised she was waiting until the new site was graded and area laid out for the playground and shelter house before calling Outdoor Rec. They will need to know the size of the space and might need to see the site prior to submitting a proposal.

Chamber of Commerce – Marie reviewed a written report prepared by Natalie. The Chamber is working on Main Street beautification plans. They would like to write a Jasper Community Grant for the materials needed. They asked if Hometown Pride would be interested in writing a joint grant for both initiatives. Natalie arrived and discussion followed. It was agreed that Hometown Pride would not be involved in a Jasper Community Grant at this time allowing the Chamber to write the full request. Natalie inquired about providing colored flyers of the Geise Park development plan showing the primitive camping areas for the Hillbilly Bike Ride in June and for the Welcome Bags. Group agreed it was a good idea. Peg will email the colored plans to Forbes in Newton for printing. She will have a larger rendition done for the bike trail parking message board.

Genn brought up previous discussion on the caboose conditions. Peg advised Bryce Halter met with Jerry Ratliff, Jasper County Conservation, and they performed a walk-through. She has not heard back on the results. Will follow up with Bryce.

Genn advised the Joint City/School Work Session has been set for April 6th, 6-7:30 p.m. at the school. She will not be able to attend. Peg will report for HP.

Bruce moved to adjourn. Natalie seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Peg Kimberley

Secretary