

Baxter Hometown Pride  
Monday, December 6, 2021  
7:00 p.m.

The Baxter Hometown Pride Committee met on Monday, December 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room with members of the Baxter Early Learning Center Board. Those in attendance were Gennypher Popenhagen, Marie and Rich Van Beek, Paul Van Beek, Leah Wall, Natalie Moorman, JoAnn Maxwell, Peg Kimberley, Bruce Connelly, Jamie Milligan, Lindey Butler, Kelly Maher and Jenna Stratton.

With the closing of Baxter Early Learning Center, the purpose of the meeting was to discuss possible uses for funding received from the sale of the property. BELC board members advised they were not committed in contributing to the splash pad project due to many unanswered questions regarding future financing and upkeep of such a facility. The board was interested in providing a playground for Geise Park and a park within West Field Horizons. They advised their idea was to provide playground equipment for a younger age group that would offer different features than those at the School playground. They have contacted a company out of Marshalltown to work with them to come up with a site plan and equipment. They advised they would be meeting to review the design at the end of December and with approval from Hometown Pride and the City, would proceed to place the order to ensure installation yet this summer. Hometown Pride members noted they would prefer equipment that was compatible for all ages and were already committed to providing a zip-line within the playground design due to receiving a previous Make a Wish contribution by the Eric Hewitt family for that purpose. The BELC board advised they would be contributing 2/3 of the available funds to the Geise Park playground and the other 1/3 to WFH. A question and answer period followed.

Marie Van Beek gave a brief presentation on the status of the shelter house project for the park. Discussion followed as to the overall park renovation plans, how they were decided on and past Hometown Pride efforts to see the plans to fruition.

Upon completion of discussion, the Hometown Pride Committee requested to be included in the final decision making that would take place the end of December. BELC board agreed to set up a time all could meet and review.

With no further discussion, meeting adjourned.

Peg Kimberley  
Secretary