

Baxter Hometown Pride Committee met on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room. Members present were Gennypher Popenhagen, Natalie Moorman, Paul Van Beek, Marie Van Beek, and Peg Kimberley. Bruce Connelly, Baxter Education Foundation was also in attendance.

Genn advised that the PTO Committee with only 3 members were no longer going to organize Jolly Holiday Night. They asked if the Christmas Committee would take on the project. The Christmas Committee agreed to continue the tradition. Discussion was held regarding whether Hometown Pride wished to continue Breakfast with Santa. Members agreed to continue the annual event. Genn is currently working on getting a Santa for both events. The weekend schedule will be the lighted parade and tree lighting on Friday, December 3 at 6:30 p.m. Breakfast with Santa will be Saturday, December 4 from 7-9 a.m. at the Community Room. Jolly Holiday Night will be Saturday, December 4 from 5-8 p.m. at the school.

Natalie reported on the Chamber. The group is currently working on a fundraiser to continue the new resident Welcome Bag program. The fundraiser will consist of printed towel sales. Amanda Samson will oversee the fundraiser and is currently working on a design. There are currently 65 businesses participating in the Welcome Bag program. Natalie has met with BEDC on providing information for the bags. They have agreed to participate. Chamber is providing its monthly minutes to Katie at City Hall to be listed on the city website.

The remainder of the meeting was discussion of the Geise Park Splash Pad project. In reviewing the original splash pad proposal submitted by Cunningham Recreation of Charlotte, NC at a total cost of \$124,190, it was discussed to do a smaller version and add on to it as resources allowed. A size was agreed upon of 30' x 30'. After speaking with State Center on their equipment, it was agreed to omit features that could be ridden or with hanging parts which could easily be damaged. Other information provided by State Center was also reviewed including water usage. It was agreed once the committee had a viable presentation with all issues being addressed it would need to be presented to the City Council for final discussion and approval. It was agreed to contact other communities with splash pads to obtain further companies to contact. Important to find out what is included in each company's proposal. Installation? Protective surfacing? Engineering? Bruce and Peg will contact several communities for further information. Peg will contact Spirit Lake, Grinnell and Bristo, IA. Bruce will meet with State Center and contact Grundy Center. Natalie will contact an individual on the Newton Splash Pad Committee to see what they have come up with at this time. General questions discussed were, what is their annual maintenance fee? Initial cost of mechanics and how often do they need replaced? What is involved with a recycling design? How does it work into the structure of the city sewer system? What is the average water usage per season? Length of season and hours? Size of facility? Need to check with IRUA once we have a definite usage average to see what they would charge for this type of water usage. Need to contact EMC Insurance to find out what coverage would cost. Need to find out what is involved for a recycling system, State licensing fee, water treatment costs, schedule for treating, qualification requirements.

It was agreed to set up a meeting with the BELC board for Monday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the splash pad project. Genn will contact Kelly Maher accordingly. Marie presented Articles of Incorporation which were previously started for the Committee but not completed. The group will review for the next meeting.

Natalie moved to adjourn. Marie seconded. Motion carried, all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Peg Kimberley  
Secretary