The Hiawatha History Committee met on January 11, 2016, at Hiawatha City Hall in Conference Room D with Edie Wheeler as Chair calling the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. Members present: Pat Semelroth, Sandy Brewer, Bev Daws and Jerry Seifried. Absent: Dick Larson. Guests: Tom Theis and Juliana Smith.

Edie Wheeler welcomed former Mayor Tom Theis to the meeting as a guest.

The History Committee interviewed Juliana (JuJu) Smith of the Hiawatha Fire Department. Highlights of the interview include the following information:

* Juliana JuJu Smith is currently one of two female fire members serving on the Hiawatha Fire Department.
* JuJu is a Hiawatha Volunteer Paramedic and Firefighter.
* JuJu lives in Cedar Rapids with her husband and health certified Australian Sheppard who can go into nursing homes and help kids with behavioral issues.
* JuJu completed a one-year university program to be a Paramedic. JuJu wants to be a flight medic someday.
* JuJu is still in school for nursing.
* The Hiawatha Fire Department has approximately 40 volunteers ranging in age from 20 to 30 and up.
* The Hiawatha Fire Department has a good reputation in the metro area.
* The weekend duty crew has assigned nights during the week from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. 14 hours during the week and 48 hour shifts on their assigned weekends. The fire station has wall beds and JuJu has her own personal bed. The wall beds fold up and out of the way.
* Fire staff looks over the trucks each day from top to bottom to make sure everything is in order. They also have chainsaws to check and station cleaning to do every day.
* Fire staff does a lot of work in the community. JuJu works with elementary kids at Hiawatha Elementary School and Nixon School five times a year to teach the kids about home safety and run through fire drills with kids to prepare them for emergencies.
* The Hiawatha Fire Department held Smoke Detector Day a couple of months ago and on January 9, 2016, fire members canvassed the neighborhood to replace/install smoke detectors.
* The Hiawatha Fire Department was very successful with the MDA Fill the Boot Campaign and the chili supper was record breaking.
* Sparky is the Fire Department mascot.
* JuJu was a swimmer in college, a lifeguard and an aquatics manager in the summer for a pool. JuJu once saved an infant’s life at the pool and this is what got her interested in going to EMT school.
* JuJu has never been hurt on the job and feels it is very important to have your partner’s back.
* Fire staff have certifications they have to maintain each year and have state licenses and national certifications to maintain. Fire staff is constantly learning new procedures and technologies.
* A member of the fire staff has to be a driver/operator to drive the big trucks.
* The Hiawatha Fire Department currently has three ambulances and is hoping to purchase one more later this year. The M5 is the oldest ambulance and the new ambulance will have a few updates to keep staff safer in the trucks including a five-point harness.

Business:

Jerry Seifried moved the approval of the agenda, seconded by Bev Daws. Motion carried. Pat Semelroth moved the approval of the November 9, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Sandy Brewer. Motion carried*.*

**Update on Interviews**

Upcoming interviews:

* February - Sara Melsa from the Hiawatha Police Department

Future Interviews:

* Buffalo Cemetery, Morrison Cemetery and Shiloh Cemetery

**Hiawatha Insight Articles**

* February newsletter article – St. Elizabeth Church

**Other Business**

Edie mentioned having another work session soon.

Edie distributed a list of interviews completed by the History Committee.

Pat Semelroth asked about funding to put together the history book. City Clerk Kornegor said she would review the History budget and report back.

Edie Wheeler stated Hiawatha would be celebrating 65 years in May.

Pat Semelroth asked about a location to preserve the history materials collected so far. Edie Wheeler said the plan is for the History Committee to get a section to display historical materials in the new library addition and mentioned a welcome center. Pat Semelroth suggested a historical kiosk where people can access historical artifacts and scanning in historical data to be accessed by the public electronically. City Clerk Kornegor said she would check to see if the City could add a History Committee folder in the scanning program.

Tom Theis mentioned speaking to Andrea Huff in the past about her property to have the first opportunity to purchase it so the City could convert it to an information center/museum. Theis said the Minney property was recently purchased with the purpose of building a memorial. Theis suggested the History Committee should be involved with this project; this is a corner lot that is not large enough for a business and parking, but it would be perfect for a memorial. Theis continued there is an individual in town that contributed a significant amount of money toward the memorial fund. Theis mentioned there are sketches depicting a layout of the memorial. Edie Wheeler stated the History Committee talked about placing a time capsule on the memorial property and taking this request to City Council for approval when the time is right.

The next History Committee meeting is February 8, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.

Bev Daws moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:51 p.m., seconded by Jerry Seifried. Motion carried.

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Edie Wheeler, Chair