

The Hiawatha History Commission met on March 12, 2018, at Hiawatha City Hall in Conference Room D with Pat Semelroth as Chair calling the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. Members present: Chris Ask, Dick Larson, Sandy Brewer and Mary Beth Culbertson. Guests: Cynthia Petersen, Janis Lyons, Merry Rooks, and Marilyn James

Business:

Chris Ask moved the approval of the agenda, seconded by Mary Beth Culbertson. Motion carried. Chris Ask moved the approval of the February 12, 2018 meeting minutes, seconded by Mary Beth Culbertson. Motion carried.

Special Announcement

Pat Semelroth announced Dick Larson is celebrating his birthday, turning 88 years old. The group celebrated Larson by singing Happy Birthday and enjoying some treats.

Introduction of Potential New History Committee Member

Mary Beth Culbertson introduced her friend and guest Marilyn James. James provided a short biography for the records.

Discussion on Printing and Binding the History Book – Shane from Strategic Print Solutions

Shane from Strategic Print Solutions was not able to attend the meeting but he did drop off a sample spiral bound book. History Committee members were in agreement that the spiral book is a great option especially considering the low cost quoted by Strategic Print Solutions:

\$4.80 per book for 100 pages front and back (color and black and white). Cost would adjust based on page count. Size is an 8 ½ X 11” book with a clear front cover (landscape or portrait), black plastic backing, and black coils binding the book. The book would need to be fully formatted as a PDF file, and ready to print. Cost to print 300 books approximately \$1,440.00

History Book Discussion with Cynthia Petersen

Cynthia Petersen updated History Committee members on the progress of the book and other information. Cynthia is in the process of creating a Hiawatha History Committee Facebook page to connect with people, post information and pictures, and collect history related photos and information from the public.

Petersen asked History Committee members for their thoughts on getting together for work sessions on the weekend or after 5:00 p.m. during the week to work on the book. Petersen said she will bring a sample of the work she has done so far to the April meeting to share with the group. Petersen added she will contact members through email.

History Committee members held discussion on the book. Pat Semelroth asked for input on whether members thought the book would be something people would read all the time or just once in a while. The feedback received was people would only look at the book from time to time and it would be more of a keepsake.

Pat Semelroth asked for thoughts on setting a price to purchase a history book. The feedback received was to charge from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per book.

The group also talked about having a couple of hardback books printed for the library for people to thumb through if necessary.

Hiawatha Insight Articles

- April – Hiawatha streets Eisenhower Road and Miller Road
- Future articles – Announcing the Facebook page

Interview with Marilyn James

Marilyn James shared the following history:

- Marilyn James has lived in Hiawatha for 48 years

- Marilyn and her husband Glen moved to Hiawatha in 1970 when Glen was called to work on the construction of the Duane Arnold Nuclear Power Plant.
- The Duane Arnold Nuclear Power Plant site was a cornfield before it was built.
- Duane Arnold promised Glen six months of work and he ended up working for Duane Arnold for seven years.
- There were many times Glen couldn't wear his work clothes back home because they were contaminated and would have to be burnt.
- Marilyn and Glen lived in the Oakbrook Trailer Court when they first moved to Hiawatha.
- Marilyn and Glen moved from the mobile home court after having their third daughter, when they moved into a house by the post office.
- Marilyn and Glen bought their house from Larry Johns.
- There used to be a dentist by the name of Dr. Galen Green whose business was located by the post office.
- Glen played softball on a police league in Marion with Dave Saari and Lyle Russ. Bob Wheeler was a catcher part-time.
- Glen was a member of the Jaycees with other locals such as Rich Melsa, Moose Mohler and Dave Saari. The Jaycees would distribute sand for sandboxes to raise money.
- Marilyn and Glen's daughters went to Nixon.
- Rainbow Real Estate was in the strip mall on Center Point Road.
- The bank used to be located on Clark Street before it moved to Center Point Road.
- Tucker Park was a lot smaller back in the day and residents used to be able to see Mr. Tucker out in his yard while walking to the park.
- Marilyn remembered a time when the police used her house as a stake out location after receiving a tip that the bank was going to be robbed.
- Glen was a union boilermaker/welder for 32 years and is now retired.
- Marilyn and Glen have four grown children and 11 grandchildren.

History Committee members used the rest of the meeting to work on the History Book.

Next meeting is April 9, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.

Pat Semelroth, Chair