The Hiawatha History Committee met on October 9, 2017, 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: Tom Theis, Dick Larson, Chris Ask, Sandy Brewer and Mary Beth Culbertson. Member Absent: Jerry Seifried. Guest: Hiawatha Public Library Director Jeaneal Weeks.

Business:

Tom Theis moved the approval of the agenda, seconded by Mary Beth Culbertson. Motion carried. Dick Larson moved the approval of the September 11, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by Chris Ask. Motion carried.

Hiawatha Public Library informational presentation on library expansion project

Hiawatha Public Library Director Jeaneal Weeks presented information on the library expansion project. An overview of Weeks' presentation is provided in the information below.

History of the project: Hiawatha Public Library originally chose FEH Architects from Des Moines and Dubuque to design the library building expansion project. FEH's plan was to double the square footage to 17,000 square feet. The Hiawatha Public Library went through a site selection process and their current site at 150 W Willman Street ranked the highest as prime real estate.

Under FEH Architects' design, the building would be expanding the east. The Hiawatha Public Library wanted to add a partial basement for storage and to use as a storm shelter; it was very costly to add the basement. The Hiawatha Public Library started raising money under FEH's design plan to help with the referendum.

In spring of 2016, the Hiawatha Public Library decided to work with a local architect to try to lower the cost of the project and get the best project possible. The Hiawatha Public Library hired Ahmann Design who is donating design services as an in-kind donation. Under Ahmann's plan, the building expansion is flipped to the other side and it is a much larger building at 22,000 square feet, at a much lower cost of $4.133 million.

In the new plan, the basement will be constructed partially above ground and the there is much better use of space. The library will be able to use the basement and main floor.

Amenities added to the new design plans:

- Tween area
- Separate young adult area
- Study rooms and offices
- Lounge area
- Digital signage throughout the building
- Ability to teach classes in conference room
- 2.5 times larger meeting room with media capabilities
- Adult collection upstairs and downstairs
- Staff area
- Basement can serve as storm shelter
- Upgrading lighting and HVAC equipment
- Gaining parking spaces
- Solar roof if feasible

Funding for library expansion project:

- $1M Local Option Sales and Service Tax dollars
- $2M Capital campaign fundraising dollars
- $1.2M General Obligation Bonds Spring 2018
- No additional property tax burden

If the library expansion referendum passes the bid process will begin in Spring 2018.

Library Statistics:

- 3,521 library card holders
- 2,100 residential households

2016 checkouts by Hiawatha residents:
Hiawatha items 35,132
Cedar Rapids items 15,477
Marion items 11,462

Current building built in 1998. Library is an E size library which is based on city population size. The average circulation for an E size library is 90,333 and Hiawatha Public Library circulation exceeds that amount at 250,254. Average visits for an E size library is 77,768 and Hiawatha Public Library exceeds this total at 108,210 visits in 2016.

The library is getting involved in the voting process for the 2017 City Election. The library will be a satellite voting location on October 24 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Absentee ballots and voter registration available on request.

History Book Discussion – Contacting local Businesses for Sponsorship
City Clerk Kornegor shared the History Committee received one additional history book sponsorship since the September meeting in the amount of $300.00, bringing the total sponsorship dollars to $1,150.00, eight sponsorships received to date.

History Committee members discussed visiting or calling local businesses for sponsorships and also discussed potential of looking into other funding options such as Go Fund Me or grant opportunities. The History Committee will continue to revisit this item to try to come up with options for financing the history book project.

History Book Discussion – Quotation with Cedar Graphics
City Clerk Kornegor shared a quotation received from Cedar Graphics to create the history book.

Cost:

$13,723.89 for 300 books
$14,851.00 for 400 books
$15,727.42 for 500 books

Pat Semelroth suggested finding pictures of past individuals who interviewed with the History Committee and adding the pictures with captions to the history book under the "Residents Then and Now" chapter.

Hiawatha Insight Articles

November newsletter article –

- Street name history on Sherman Road and Stamy Road. Pat Semelroth made contact with Chris Sherman to verify the history behind the naming of Sherman Road.

December newsletter article –

- Street name history on Clark Street and Willman Street.

Other articles –

- Asking residents for pictures or information to put in the history book.

Other Discussion

Mary Beth Culbertson shared she spoke to Dr. Richard Louvar about interviewing with the History Committee. Dr. Louvar will not be available for the next six weeks. Mary Beth Culbertson will speak to Dr. Louvar again to try and set up a date to interview.

Chris Ask and Dick Larson will be gone for the November meeting. City Clerk Kornegor will contact History Committee members before the meeting to ensure a quorum.

Mary Beth Culbertson moved to adjourn the business portion of the meeting at 3:04 p.m., seconded by Dick Larson. Motion carried.

History Book

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

Next meeting is November 13, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

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Pat Semelroth, Chair