The Hiawatha History Commission met on July 8, 2019, 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: Merry Rooks, Marilyn James, and Carol Johnson. Guests: Parks and Recreation Director Kelly Willadsen, Cindy Peterson.

Business:

Merry Rooks moved the approval of the agenda, seconded by Carol Johnson. Motion carried.

Merry Rooks moved the approval of the June 10, 2019 minutes, seconded by Marilyn James. Motion carried.

Hiawatha 70th Birthday Celebration, June 12, 2020

The Commission discussed with Parks and Recreation Director Kelly Willadsen ideas for the City of Hiawatha 70th Birthday next year. Willadsen indicated she would not have a lot of time to help the Commission plan due to there being so many Parks and Recreation events going on during that same time but she would help them with contacts and any other way she can. She encouraged them to keep it simple.

Semelroth expressed she wants to show off the City by possibly having something going on in each park and by having each department make a display. The Commission also discussed having a Concert with a 50's bank and/or a car show.

The Commission discussed the date and time. They mentioned Saturday may be better than Friday and agreed on 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

The Commission discussed the location of the event. They mentioned using the front grassy area of City Hall for the event and Willadsen indicated there wouldn't be a lot of parking in this area but it would be more visible. She encouraged them to talk to Kim about this option. Willadsen indicated she would look at the calendars and provide them with shelter and Community Center availability. They also discussed the blocks of time the shelters and Community Room were available for rentals and the capacity. Semelroth said she likes the idea of a scavenger hunt to get people to go around town. Semelroth expressed she would like to see a "Then and Now" for each department and possible also schools and churches. Merry Rooks brought up having a map with the different places in Hiawatha and having something small at each location.

There was discussion of what age group the event would be geared toward. Fun Fest is geared towards children so they discussed possible gearing the event towards adults and seniors.

Willadsen encouraged them to consider their budget and possibly reach out for sponsorship. Semelroth mentioned they have a $2,000 budget each year but they plan to use that money for the book. Willadsen indicated there may be local business who would be willing to help out with cake.

The Commission discussed whether the event should be come and go or if they would like people to stay the whole time. Rooks mentioned possibly having a display on Friday evening in the Community Center and having something outside on Saturday.

Willadsen mentioned having the local band New Horizons or the Community Band play.

Semelroth asked the group what they thought the event should for sure have. Rooks said they should for sure have cake. Others agreed. Semelroth said she wants to see each department represented with a display and pictures for each.

The Commission discussed the map/scavenger hunt idea. Semelroth said she likes how it brings out history and is easy enough to do. Rooks indicated she did not like the scavenger hunt idea but would prefer just a map. Semelroth clarified that Rooks doesn't want to have participants figure out a clue but rather just have a map and they go to the places listed. They discussed prizes. Rooks indicated she thought cake was enough and they didn't need prizes for the map.

The Commission discussed possibly having a picnic. James indicated that a picnic would be challenging to provide food for. Rooks said they should provide cake and invite families to bring food and have a picnic.

Cindy Peterson arrived at 2:45 P.M.

Hiawatha Fun Fest 2019

The Commission discussed vehicles they could use in the Fun Fest Parade. Semelroth informed the group that she has a truck and asked what they could do with the banner if they can't attach it to the vehicle.

James agreed to purchase candy for the parade. Semelroth reminded them to throw sparingly at the beginning so they would have enough to make it to the end of the parade route.

The Commission discussed with Parks and Recreation Director Kelly Willadsen the parade route and requested to be in line with the other city groups.

They discussed the wrist bands they would like to order and give out with candy.

Hiawatha Insights Articles

Cindy Peterson indicated the newspaper clipping for the upcoming Insights article may not be clear.

The Commission discussed the upcoming Insights Article topics. They considered using the History of the Farmers Market for September. Johnson will look into the History and who is in charge of the farmer's market.

Book Finances

Semelroth explained to the Commission that they are budgeted $2,000 each year but if they don't use the money it does not accumulate.

They discussed selling sponsorships or advertisements or requesting donations to fund the book but were concerned some people may be upset if they were not asked to sponsor.

Cindy Peterson indicated she applied for a grant for the book but hasn't heard anything yet.

They discussed the cost of the book and how if they knew how much the book would cost they could request more be budgeted.

Other Business Discussion

The Commission discussed briefly the pricing of the book.

Next meeting is August 12, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

Willadsen returned with possible park pavilion availability. Rooks requested they block all parks from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. on the 12th and 13th.

Willadsen also provided the name and phone number of an individual for the Farmers Market.

Merry Rooks moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:11 p.m., seconded by Marilyn James. Motion carried.

Pat Semelroth

Pat Semelroth, Chair