The Hiawatha History Committee met on July 13, 2015, at the 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, Dick Larson, Don Earll, Jerry Seifried and Bev Daws. Guest: Norma Manhart from St. Elizabeth’s Church.

The History Committee interviewed Norma Manhart from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church before the business meeting. Highlights of the interview include the following information:

* Norma Manhart moved to Hiawatha in 1963.
* Norma’s first house was on 2nd Avenue until she moved to Raney Street where she has remained for the last 50 years.
* Norma was the first parish secretary for St. Elizabeth’s Church.
* Norma worked as the secretary for St. Elizabeth’s for over 7 years before retiring in 1996.
* St. Elizabeth’s Church is named after St. Elizabeth Ann Seton who was the first saint from North America.
* The first mass was held in the Hiawatha School cafeteria in 1989.
* St. Elizabeth’s Church office and rectory started in a split foyer house on Eisenhower Road where Norma had a little office in the basement with a computer.
* In 1990, St. Elizabeth’s rented a warehouse on N Compton Drive before building the church on Lyndhurst Drive.
* St. Elizabeth’s had 10 acres dedicated for the new Church.
* The construction of the church was done in phases as the church could pay it off.
* In April 1993, phase I of the building plans began.
* The first mass was held in Seton Hall in November 1993.
* The second building phase began in 1999. The current Church building was dedicated in 2010.
* When Norma worked at St. Elizabeth’s Church there were 200 households, today there are 1,600.
* St. Elizabeth’s Church currently seats 840 people.
* July 11, 2015 is the 26th anniversary of the first mass.
* St. Elizabeth’s Church is an environmentally approved, LEEDS certified building
* St. Elizabeth’s is trying to be more environmentally friendly by not using Styrofoam cups and dishes.
* St. Elizabeth’s is efficient with acoustics and lighting.
* The church bell was made by the same Company that made the Liberty Bell and it rings three minutes before mass.
* St. Elizabeth’s is working with a twin perish in Nicaragua.
* St. Elizabeth’s does not have a full time janitorial staff; the work is all done by volunteers plus one part time employee.
* St. Elizabeth’s has three weekend masses, one on Saturday and two on Sunday and four weekday masses.
* St. Elizabeth’s one mass at Hiawatha Care Center and a prayer service weekly during Easter vigil.
* St. Elizabeth’s has a submerged pool for baptisms and a baptismal font the rest of the year.

Business:

Pat Semelroth moved the approval of the agenda, seconded by Dick Larson. Motion carried. Sandy Brewer moved the approval of the June 8, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Jerry Seifried. Motion carried*.*

**Update on Interviews**

Upcoming interviews:

* Edie, Bev and Sandy will do the interview for Hope Church at the August meeting
* Brian Fanton from the Coin Shop
* Buffalo Cemetery and Shiloh Cemetery

**Hiawatha Insight Articles**

* August newsletter – Prairiewoods

**Other Business**

Don Earll mentioned there was another cemetery located off Blairs Ferry Road heading toward the rock quarry. Earll said the Legion put flags on the soldiers’ graves in this cemetery. City Clerk Kelly Kornegor said she would ask Bob Jones for the name of the cemetery.

Edie Wheeler announced she had an interview with the Gazette about RAGBRAI. There will be a blog about Hiawatha in the Sunday paper on July 19, 2015.

The History Committee agreed to have a work session in September.

The next History Committee meeting is August 10, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.

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

The History Committee took a group photo after the meeting to update their records of new members.

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Edie Wheeler, Chair