

The Hiawatha History Commission met on January 9, 2023, at Hiawatha City Hall in Conference Room D with Pat Semelroth as Chair calling the meeting to order at 1:36 P.M. Members present: Pat Semelroth, Marilyn James, and Merry Rooks. Janis Lyons was absent.

Business:

Marilyn James moved the approval of the agenda, seconded by Merry Rooks. Motion carried.

Merry Rooks moved the approval of the December 12, 2022, seconded by Marilyn James. Motion carried.

Financial Update

City Clerk Graber informed the group they have \$4,672.11 in their account.

Selection of new chairperson

James nominated Pat Semelroth as chairperson, seconded by Rooks. Motion carried.

Results of new members recruitment

Semelroth had gone through the list of potential interested individuals at the last meeting and has not called anyone on the list yet.

Rooks said she has not called anyone yet either.

James said she is drawing a blank on names from the list and a lot of people are hard to get a hold of.

Semelroth said that Chris Ask is a no, Marlene Carver is willing to look through obituaries for them and is interested in sorting through items but not interested in being on the commission. Also to keep plugging away and trying to get a hold of people on their lists and maybe try to put it in the Insights again.

Graber said they could do a Facebook post about recruiting for new members if they wanted.

History Commission T-shirts

Semelroth said they had talked about t-shirts and post-poning a decision until January, save money, fund raise, promoting them.

Rooks said she doesn't care, wouldn't wear one unless they were doing an event. She mentioned Tiffin can do it at the same price but need to order 20.

Semelroth asked if they want to have t-shirts and do they want to do a pre-order.

James said the current shirt doesn't say commission on it and asked if they want the public to wear it if it says commission on it.

Semelroth grabbed one of the current t-shirts out of the vault and confirmed that it just says Hiawatha History.

Rooks said she doesn't want one and thinks that they have 10 shirts left.

Semelroth said is it something they want to promote Hiawatha and they have 5-2XL and 3-L for sizes currently.

Rooks said she is not interested in a shirt or selling them.

Semelroth asked if it would help promote Hiawatha History or not and do they want to go into business of t-shirts or not.

Rooks said she can work with the group but can pick them up in Tiffin but need to know how many and how soon they need them and do a pre-order.

James said unless they went to a birthday party, they don't know what they look like.

James said yes to move forward with the t-shirts.

Semelroth also said yes to move forward with the t-shirts.

Graber mentioned that she could put something together for them for t-shirts and bring it to the next meeting.

Semelroth said they will also check with others.

James said she will check with a lady she was in contact with that may do them.

Rooks said it is \$14.50 per shirt and need at least two weeks from Tiffin.

Semelroth said next meeting to have everyone bring bids to go over.

Semelroth asked the group if they wanted to stay with the same design.

James said she doesn't know what's out there, the current one has a book on it and the year 1950 so no end date on it.

Rooks said Janis's was a little different but looked good.

Semelroth asked if they want something else on it.

Semelroth said do they want the flag or the seal design from Hiawatha or a basic book design on it.

Semelroth said come back with bids at the next meeting.

Signs of history locations

Semelroth said she finally nailed down who does their signs and how they paid for them, the Cedar Rapids History Commission paid for them. The group can brainstorm on what places for the signs could be at, one sign for one location. Need to mark the historic areas with signs.

Graber said she will send the links that Lindsey looked into for grant opportunities.

Methods to preserve history

Semelroth said she will contact Cedar Rapids History Committee to see what they do.

Graber said she will send the links that Lindsey looked into for grant opportunities.

Semelroth said besides their actual "things", Insights helps preserve information and would like to start interviews again and put those into the minutes and those are put on the website. Can they come up with people to interview.

Rooks said no, they need to organize this place first before they do anything else.

Semelroth asked if they would be willing to have a work day besides just a meeting separate from their monthly meetings.

James said she would be willing to do that.

Rooks said it depends on her schedule, anytime after February 4th she can stay overnight on February 13th so they can work on February 14th.

Semelroth said they can start in the morning on Tuesday, February 14th.

James said 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday, February 14th she can do something in January also.

Create a 2023 timeline of Commission activities

Semelroth tried to do a timeline for the year.

James said that is an excellent idea.

Semelroth said she will send it off to everyone and need to brainstorm more ideas for the year, list of all their activities.

James asked if there was any given month they should or could do a meet and greet with people at the library.

Semelroth said that might help them recruit people to join the commission.

Rooks said she is resigning as chairperson but will be staying on the History Commission as a member.

Next meeting is February 13, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

Rooks moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:35 p.m., seconded by James. Motion carried.

Pat Semelroth, Chair