

The Hiawatha History Commission met on July 11, 2022, at Hiawatha City Hall in Conference Room D with Merry Rooks as Chair calling the meeting to order at 1:39 P.M. Members present: Pat Semelroth, Marilyn James and Merry Rooks. Janis Lyons was absent.

Business:

Pat Semelroth moved the approval of the agenda, seconded by Marilyn James. Motion carried.

Marilyn James moved the approval of the June 13, 2022 minutes, seconded by Pat Semelroth. Motion carried.

Lisa Jepsen – Community First Caring 24/7 – Fire Station 2 Construction Project

Lisa Jepsen is the Volunteer Co-Chair for Fire Station Committee and wanted to share with the group of what was going on with the Fire Station 2:

1. An even safer community; bringing help within 4 minutes to 92% of the community
2. Increase the safety and wellness of Hiawatha First Responders
3. No tax increase; Funded with Local Option Sales and Service Tax

City Manager Downs said they are sharing all of their information in the newsletter, booths at Farmers Market, Food Truck Fridays, meetings at home owners' associations, meetings with all boards and commissions, website and on Facebook.

Jepsen said all the bays will be pull through so there will be no more backing up the big vehicles. They have also been having open houses at the Fire Station and those have been helpful. Staff will rotate at each station so everyone will be working out of each station.

Rooks asked if all the trucks will go to the new station.

Downs answered no, they will logistically split the trucks and the Fire Chief and his team will make those decisions.

James commented the first responders she has interacted with are all really qualified and very helpful.

Jepsen said there has been forward thinking and careful planning by the council and the city, they won't have to go out for referendum to be on the ballot, careful funding and planning by the city.

Financial Update

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

James said she will bring her receipts in at the next meeting for reimbursement.

Hiawatha Insights

Rooks said she sent the newsletter article on Lee Waddington.

Rooks said she will talk to Jeaneal about the September newsletter when they finished the last remodel.

Semelroth mentioned an article of Hiawatha and commented that 100% of males were veterans that lived in Hiawatha.

Rooks commented that October has always been fire prevention.

Miscellaneous

Semelroth said they sold one book at the birthday party.

James said most people that came to the birthday party already had a book.

Rooks said they had 25 books when they were last printed.

James said they now only have seven books left and then they will be all out of books.

Rooks asked the group if they wanted to order more books or not.

Semelroth suggested that they wait until they sell the seven books before they order any more.

James commented she is okay with waiting until they sell the seven books.

Rooks commented they had around 400 wristbands to begin with.

Rooks said there are 10 shirts left.

Semelroth asked if the company kept the stencil of the design.

Rooks answered yes.

James said it helped to have those shirts on to ask for donations.

Rooks asked if they wanted what they have or a different design.

Semelroth said if they usually have the stencil already, they will cost more to change the design.

The group discussed more on what to do with the shirts moving forward.

Ideas/suggestions from the birthday party

Graber mentioned they should sell shirts for the next birthday celebration as an idea for fundraising.

Semelroth said the cookies were great and had fun getting the gift cards and promoting area businesses.

James went over what she put on the thank you cards.

Semelroth took flyers to houses to invite them – personal invite makes a difference. Good for people to get together.

Rooks said it depends on what they want to do next, maybe do something for the fire department with the new building coming along.

Semelroth said they could have a display at the library according to Jeaneal, maybe something at the Fire Station #1 maybe it will have a permanent area for a museum.

Rooks said Koopman has Edie Kook Wheeler's wedding dress to put in a small museum for Hiawatha.

James said she thought about having a meet and greet and letting people know they are still here and could hold it at City Hall.

Semelroth said they could check into renting the Community Center.

Next meeting is August 8, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

Marilyn James moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:03 p.m., seconded by Pat Semelroth. Motion carried.

Merry Rooks, Chair