

The Hiawatha History Committee met on February 12, 2018, 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: Chris Ask, Sandy Brewer and Mary Beth Culbertson. Member Absent: Dick Larson. Guests: Cynthia Petersen, Janis Lyons, Pat Dennison, and Merry Rooks.

Business:

Sandy Brewer moved the approval of the agenda, seconded by Mary Beth Culbertson. Motion carried. Mary Beth Culbertson moved the approval of the October 9, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by Chris Ask. Motion carried.

### **History Book Discussion with Cynthia Petersen**

Cynthia Petersen previously spoke to City Clerk Kelly Kornegor and Pat Semelroth about working with the History Committee to complete the book.

Cynthia Petersen gave the group the following questions and pointers to consider:

- Is there enough material?
- Grouping articles within the sections of the book
- Cutting businesses off at year 2000
- Cover 50 years of material and stop there
- Add a forward to cover where Hiawatha started and add bigger things that happened through the years
- Highlight the bigger businesses and do a small blurb on the others
- Holding an old fashioned ice cream social to showcase the book once complete

Petersen said she would work on the writing for the History Committee and then make contact with board members to assign tasks throughout the process. The group agreed working through email would work the best. Target completion date for the book is August 2018 for the Fun Fest celebration.

Pat Dennison expressed interest in helping with the history book.

Petersen gave City Clerk Kornegor contact information for SPS Printing to get a quote on pricing for the book. Kornegor will provide an update at the March meeting.

### **Hiawatha Insight Articles**

- March – Hiawatha streets Tower Terrace Road and Center Point Road.

### **Discussion on Potential Board Members**

There are currently two open seats to fill. Mary Beth Culbertson recommended Hiawatha resident Marilyn James; she will invite Marilyn to attend the next History Committee meeting.

Pat Semelroth said she would contact Frank and Bev Glaser to see if they have interest in serving on the History Committee.

### **Interview with Janis Lyons, Pat Dennison, Merry Rooks**

Pat Dennison shared the following history:

- Gene Severson built their first house when they lived on Willman Street.
- Willia had a farm at the end of town and there was a cornfield on the other side of Rainbow Boulevard.
- Public Library opened in 1960.
- Pat and her husband came to Hiawatha because he worked for Rockwell.
- Pat was a secretary at Zion for eight years.

Janis Lyons shared the following history:

- Janis is the daughter of Merry Rooks and retired Hiawatha Water Superintendent Carl Ransford.
- Janis came to Hiawatha in 1976.
- Janis attended Hiawatha Elementary School.
- Janis was involved in Hiawatha Kids League.

Merry Rooks shared the following history:

- In 1977, at age 21, Merry was the first female fire fighter for the Hiawatha Fire Department where she served for seven years.
- Merry's parents lived in Oakbrook.
- Merry's grandmother made wedding cakes.
- Hope Church started out of the grandparent's garage; it was then moved to a gym before the church got their own building.

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

Next meeting is March 12, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.

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Pat Semelroth, Chair