The Hiawatha History Commission met at the Hiawatha City Hall in Conference Room D with the Edith Wheeler as Chair calling the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. Members present: Dick Larson, Bev Daws, Pat Semelroth, and Jerry Seifried. Members absent: Roberta Hamdorf and Don Gabel. Guest: Pat Peckosh Hines.

Pat Semelroth moved the approval of the agenda, second by Bev Daws. Motion carried. Bev Daws moved the approval of the November 11, 2013 meeting minutes, second by Dick Larson. Motion carried*.*

**Pat Peckosh Hines Interview**

The History Commission interviewed Pat Peckosh Hines before the business portion of the meeting was held. Pam Peckosh was not able to make it to the interview because she was out of town attending a funeral.

Highlights of the History Commission interview of Pat Peckosh Hines include the following information:

* Pat has been married to Russ Hines for 40 years.
* Pat lived on 2nd Avenue in Hiawatha when she was first married but lives in Cedar Rapids/Linn County now.
* Pat and Russ have two children, Dan and Carrie. Dan is in business with Peck’s Green Thumb.
* Pat and Russ have five grandkids all under the age of six.
* Pat belongs to the Lion’s Club.
* Pat’s parents were Myrtle and Peck Peckosh.
* Pat’s parents met in South Carolina in Paris Beach where Pat’s dad was in the marines. All of the Peckosh kids were born in South Carolina in the Kalamazoo area except the youngest, Pam.
* Pat has three brothers and one sister named Jim, Tom, Ken, and Pam.
* Peck Peckosh was originally from Oxford Junction, Iowa.
* Pat’s parents moved to Iowa in 1956 and started the Green Thumb nursery. Peck Peckosh had a degree in landscape design.
* Peck Peckosh’s relatives had the Oshkosh clothing business.
* The family business known as Pecks Green Thumb started in 1958. The landscaping, garden and nursery center, and family home sat on four acres located at 5008 Center Point Road NE.
* Ralph Adolf helped Peck start the Green Thumb nursery and in 1969 to 1970, they split and Adolf took the Mt. Vernon store and Peckosh took the Center Point Road store called Peck’s Green Thumb.
* Pat’s family moved from the home on Center Point Road in 1980, because of the interstate coming through.
* Peck’s property was the on and off ramp for the interstate and the acres dwindled down to the point where they couldn’t run their business. Peck’s was bought out by the Department of Transportation and the process was a struggle. They were paid money to relocate.
* Pat’s parents found a house with land off Melbourne Road in Linn County. The piece of land was 10 acres zoned residential for the home and commercial for the business, but now the land is one zoning. Today they have renters in the home.
* Peck’s backs up to Buffalo Cemetery and there is a strip of land between their business and D&N fence where the future road will go. The road can’t go through their property directly because of the cemetery.
* Pat’s family has been trying to adopt the bell from Buffalo Church on Blairs Ferry Road but they have not had any luck so far.
* Peck’s bought the Waterbury property off of 18th Avenue after Mr. Waterbury died. Mrs. Waterbury called Ken Peckosh and they bought all the land to the rear of the property. Mrs. Waterbury kept the residence and when she was ready to sell the house, she called Ken again and they bought the rest of the property. They now have 20 acres and rent the house out. Most of the land is agriculture.
* Peck’s now has 20 employees on staff including full-time and part-time people. The business adds more employees each May, increasing to approximately 105 employees. Many employees come back every spring to work for three months. Most of the employees are part-time or seasonal. Each of the Peckosh families has one child involved in the business.
* The flower shop is the youngest part of the business. It was started to feed the family all winter long.
* The flower shop takes a lot of phone call orders but they do have a website and email where people can place orders
* Pat talked about the pink fire truck at Peck’s Green Thumb. They had a long time employee who was a volunteer firefighter. When they bought the truck it was red and they decided to paint it pink because they have pink shirts and pink wagons. The fire truck goes to parades and is used for team sports. There are only two people who can drive the pink fire truck. People take pictures in front of the fire truck.
* Peck’s sponsors Kid’s League baseball teams, one boy’s team and one girl’s team.
* Pat loves being in Hiawatha and close to Cedar Rapids because when they have an emergency, all police and fire respond. Pat is proud to see the growth in Hiawatha and she feels very fortunate to have the county around them. Pat said they have been treated very well.

**Business:**

**Update on Interviews**

Edie Wheeler stated Bev Daws, Pat Semelroth, Roberta Hamdorf, and Wheeler took CD interviews home to listen to them and create titles for the YouTube videos that are going to be put on the History Commission website.

Kelly Kornegor stated she would send the list of video descriptions completed by the History Commission ladies, to Connie Westpfahl from Metro Studios so she could start creating titles for the YouTube videos.

Edie Wheeler informed commission members there was a CD labeled Hines but there was nothing on the CD.

**Future Interviews**

* Pat Peckosh Hines will talk to her mother-in-law to get her to do an interview with the History Commission. Edie Wheeler will call Pat to see if her mother-in-law can interview in February.
* Edie Wheeler will try to get Peg Bader for an interview in February or March
* Hiawatha Police Officer Gary Manhart and Police Investigator Rod Fiser
* Brian Fanton from Coin Shop
* George from Oscars Restaurant
* Past board and commission members from the beginning
* Betty Ackenbach
* Hartmans
* Linda Bendixen
* Teri Larson interview about her time as treasurer
* Members of Zion Church or Hope Church
* Pinky Wheeler
* Jan Bahmann
* Members of the playground program
* Bev Daws is going to find the name of a lady on Bowler Street
* Fred Johnson

**Hiawatha Insight Articles**

Edie Wheeler informed commission members she requested an article showing the history of the mayors of Hiawatha for the February newsletter.

Dick Larson suggested putting an article in the newsletter asking for citizen input on information and people the History Commission could add to the history records.

**Other Discussion**

Edie Wheeler distributed Ordinance #607 to the History Commission. The ordinance established the rules and regulations of the History Commission including:

* The History Commission must be made up of no less than seven members who were residents of the City of Hiawatha.
* The History Commission must meet at least three times a year.

Edie Wheeler explained Barb Waterhouse could not be a member of the History Commission because she does not live in the City of Hiawatha

Edie Wheeler announced Dick Larson attended the December 18, 2013, City Council meeting and was sworn in for his re-appointment to the History Commission. Dick Larson stated he really enjoyed the meeting.

Edie Wheeler mentioned she received a card from Clarence Sampson after she sent him the newsletter featuring the picture of the History Commission members. Edie Wheeler read the letter aloud. Clarence Sampson is doing great and he helps his son with the pedal plane toy business.

Kelly Kornegor asked the commission members about Gordon Emmons because Mayor Theis wanted to know who Emmons Street was named after. Dick Larson stated Emmons Street was named after Gordon’s dad Al Emmons who delivered fuel oil.

Edie Wheeler stated the History Commission interviewed Gordon Emmons and there should be a CD of the interview in the archives.

The next History Commission meeting will be held on February 10, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.

Dick Larson moved to adjourn at 3:16 P.M., second by Bev Daws. Motion carried.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Edith Wheeler, Chair