The Hiawatha History Committee met 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, Bev Daws, Don Gabel, Dick Larson and Jerry Seifried. Member absent: Roberta Hamdorf.

Edie Wheeler welcomed Bill Mackin from Hiawatha School PTO. Janel McGovern from Nixon School PTO was not able to attend the meeting.

The History Committee interviewed Bill Mackin before the business meeting. Highlights of the interview include the following information:

* Bill grew up in Dewitt.
* Bill and his wife Nancy lived in Minnesota before moving to Hiawatha in 1995.
* Nancy got a job at Quaker Oats and Bill’s boss let him work at home.
* Bill and Nancy have three children.
* Bill has been a volunteer firefighter for the Hiawatha Fire Department since 1996.
* Bill likes the location of Hiawatha and having Hog Wild Days at the end of the block.
* PTA changed to PTO in the late 1990s because members did not see the benefits and had to pay dues.
* Bill has been on the PTO Board since 2009, and he is now co-president with another member named Barb.
* The PTA is a national organization with lobbyists and every member has to pay dues.
* The PTO is a non-profit and each school has their own organization.
* The PTO has a fundraiser every year. In 2004, they started a gym chase with a goal of $10,000. The kids run around the school and prizes are given. The gym chase has become the number one fundraiser and this year’s goal is $12,000.
* The principal speaks at every PTO meeting.
* There are 405 students and 74 staff members at Hiawatha School including the janitor and cafeteria workers. There are 22 to 28 students in each classroom.
* Hiawatha School went through redistricting last year causing kids to relocate.
* Kids do not practice cursive writing much anymore. They learn keyboarding instead.
* Kids are taking Spanish in kindergarten once or twice a week.
* Diversity at Hiawatha School is great with 14 different languages.
* There are not a lot of issues with bullying. Kids learn three words: ready, kind and responsible. The school has posters on how to act in each of the three manners. School staff positively reinforces good behavior.
* School visits include the Hiawatha Fire Department Safety House fire training, the Police Department once a year, Big Brother and Big Sister sets up lunch buddies, Rockwell Collins and Target volunteers. Walmart helps with donations.
* Hiawatha School built a fitness trail with the help of the city.
* The PTO received a grant to purchase 30 I Pads and covers.
* Hiawatha School does Iowa Assessment Testing in the spring including 20 to 40 minute testing per day. The testing takes about eight days.
* There are five to six buses mainly used to provide transportation for the kids in the trailer court.
* Hiawatha school teaches English as a second language for foreign students. If students have difficulty with the language, the other schools will send the students to Hiawatha School to learn.

Don Gabel moved the approval of the agenda, seconded by Bev Daws. Motion carried. Jerry Seifried moved the approval of the April 14, 2014 meeting minutes, seconded by Don Gabel. Motion carried*.*

**YouTube Videos – List of Errors**

City Clerk Kelly Kornegor distributed a list of the errors found in the YouTube videos created by Metro Studios. History Committee members will look at the errors when they finish watching the rest of the videos on the CD. The History Committee left off at the “I Worked for Fay” video.

**Update on Interviews**

Future Interviews: Brian Fanton from the Coin Shop, Connie Lentz, Betty Achenbach, Wright Way Trailers, Jim Wheeler, Wayne Winn from Hometown Restyling and Deb from the Barber Shop.

Also listed as future interviews: Midway, Darrah’s Towing, CCB Packaging, A’Hearn and Crystal Group.

* June History Committee meeting interview: Janel McGovern from Nixon School PTO
* July History Committee meeting interview: Deb from the Barber Shop

**Ideas for Hiawatha Insight Articles for June**

Edie Wheeler brought pictures of the I-380 ribbon cutting featuring Pat Semelroth to put in the June Insights.

The next History Committee meeting is June 9, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.

Don Gabel moved to adjourn at 2:48 P.M., second by Jerry Seifried. Motion carried.

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Edie Wheeler, Chair