The Hiawatha History Committee met on March 14, 2016, at 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, Sandy Brewer, Bev Daws, Dick Larson, Tom Theis and Jerry Seifried. Guests: City Council Member Aime Wichtendahl and City Administrator Kim Downs.

Business:

Tom Theis moved the approval of the agenda, seconded by Sandy Brewer. Motion carried. Bev Daws moved the approval of the February 8, 2016 meeting minutes, seconded by Tom Theis. Motion carried*.*

**Discussion on Police Department Logo**

Council Member Aime Wichtendahl explained she sent a general inquiry to City Administrator Kim Downs because of some information that came up as Wichtendahl was doing a search on the history of Hiawatha. Wichtendahl said she is aware Hiawatha is named after Fay Clark’s trailer company; however, a majority of people in town would think Hiawatha is named for the Iroquois leader. Wichtendahl suggested to avoid any controversies and keep on top of these things the City should consider formally re-dedicating the town to the Iroquois leader. Wichtendahl suggested doing the dedication during the annual festival or during celebration of one of Hiawatha’s anniversaries.

Edie Wheeler stated if it were not for Fay Clark, there would be no town of Hiawatha. Wichtendahl said she is not trying to take away from Fay’s legacy but people coming into town would tend to think Hiawatha is named for the Iroquois leader.

Wheeler said she spoke to former Police Chief, Dave Saari and he got the idea for the police badges from Hiawatha, Kansas. Pat Semelroth suggested it would be a good idea to do some research to find out of Fay Clark’s intent was honoring the leader or was he referring to his trailer business.

Tom Theis added he has lived in Hiawatha for 45 years and nobody has ever brought up the Indian leader. Theis said there are people in this room that worked with Fay and for Fay, people who are connected to the founding of this city. Theis felt there is no reason to change after all this time. Theis said at this time he does not support Wichtendahl’s recommendation but if the rest of the History Committee members felt differently and additional information is provided, Theis could certainly change his mind.

Dick Larson said he is probably the oldest one who worked with Fay. Larson exclaimed, “Hiawatha is all Fay it has nothing to do with anyone else but Fay Clark.”

Wichtendahl repeated she is not trying to take away the legacy of the City. Wichtendahl said for her it is a matter of going forward and honoring Native American lineage that comes up during anniversaries. Wichtendahl continued to state the name refers to specific individual and carriers with that name need to make things congruent with it. Wichtendahl said that history should be reserved and some reverence should be put to it.

Wheeler mentioned books and publications say the town was named for Fay’s trailer business; Fay did live with Indians for a couple of years but nobody ever heard Fay say Hiawatha was named for Indians.

Theis added if this matter comes up in the future or staff receives a petition then the City can look further into the request at that time; Hiawatha’s roots are established. Theis said he is not trying to be disrespectful but there are some long time residents here and for someone to go out and Google some information is not enough to change the history; more information is required to support this request.

Semelroth pointed out the History Committee’s role is to educate citizens on the history of Hiawatha. Semelroth asked if the police department is the only logo with the Indian emblem on it. Some members of the History Committee answered they believe this is the case.

Wheeler stated this is a sensitive situation and a formal dedication may cause some issues if it is directed at a particular heritage.

Wichtendahl stated following social trends a dedication is probably the right thing to do, it would be like some other city naming after a figure and not dedicating it.

Wheeler thanked Wichtendahl for her time.

**History Book Discussion**

The History Committee and City Clerk Kelly Kornegor discussed the history book.

Kornegor informed the History Committee Edie Wheeler, City Administrator Kim Downs and Kelly Kornegor met with the folks at the Linn News Letter located at 38 4th Street North in Central City, to talk in more detail about the book. Kornegor said Reanne from the Linn News Letter thought the book would take about two to three weeks to publish and it would cost about 25% more for the pages that contain color photos.

Edie Wheeler stated she learned the book may have to be a little larger in size than planned, at least 8 ½ X 11” pages in order to account for the spiral binding. The History Committee mentioned charging between $8.00 and $10.00 per book.

Kim Downs informed the History Committee if the group does sell the history book, all revenues from the sales would need to go back into the General Fund.

Edie Wheeler said Jim helped her put together a cover for the history book showing a silhouette of a man (Fay Clark) overlooking the fields. Edie Wheeler also noted Bev Daws put together a write up on Fay Clark’s story.

Edie Wheeler informed History Committee members she has been putting together labeled folders containing information to use for the history book and also working on creating the chapters that will go into the book: a dedication page for Fay Clark and an introduction page introducing the History Committee and the purpose of the group.

**Other Discussion**

Pat Semelroth shared information from a book she has on the town of New Buffalo. The town was platted in 1858, by M. Carpenter. New Buffalo was shown on a map in 1975 just one mile west of Hiawatha. In 1895, George Robins was a teacher at Buffalo School.

Edie Wheeler announced she would be out of town for the April meeting.

The next History Committee meeting is April 11, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. History Committee members planned to attend the regular meeting to begin working on the book while Edie Wheeler is gone on her trip.

Tom Theis moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:06 p.m., seconded by Pat Semelroth. Motion carried.

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Edie Wheeler, Chair