

The Hiawatha History Commission met on March 17, 2025, at Hiawatha City Hall in the 3rd Floor Conference Room with Pat Semelroth as Chair calling the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. Members present: Pat Semelroth and Marilyn James. Jenny Thielman with the History Center, Liz Mathis with HEDCO and Charlene Meseke attended as guests.

Interview – None

Business:

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

Marilyn James moved the approval of the January 23, 2025 minutes, seconded by Pat Semelroth. Motion carried.

Walking Tour of Hiawatha – Jenny Thielman

Jenny explained the history of the Walking Tours put on by the History Center. She also discussed different ideas for how the Hiawatha walking tour may or may not work. Semelroth asked what the committee would like to showcase about Hiawatha. Thielman suggested that even if some buildings or areas are no longer, that it can still work with using photos of the former places. James suggested highlighting the original mobile home park location. Mathis suggested maybe starting at the Shilo Cemetery and then walking down to the Village Plaza at City Hall and then possibly head to the Hiawatha Elementary School. Thielman stated that these walking tours typically last around an hour and on average 12-30 people usually attend and they do have a speaker as a way to amplify the message for larger groups. Mathis asked if they would offer a make up date if it were to rain. Thielman replied typically they don't offer a make-up date but could consider one for this event especially if it were to be too hot. Meseke offered that the first hardware store is still standing and so is the first beauty shop on Fisher Street. Semelroth asked what date they were considering. Thielman stated that they usually happen on Tuesday nights – and that the week leading up to the 75th birthday would be perfect. Thielman also stated that she would follow up with an email to everyone with proposed routes and topics.

Drafts of History Display at Birthday

Tara from the History Center had emailed some drafts of the banners that were shared by Pat to the committee.

KCRG Our Town

A review of the meeting with KCRG and the Our Town promoters was shared. A list of businesses, activities and names of people who helped make Hiawatha what it is today were discussed

Activities for June 14

Recapped activities that former Parks & Rec Directory Kelly Willadsen had scheduled.

Next meeting is April 14, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

James moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 PM, seconded by Semelroth. Motion carried.

Pat Semelroth, Chair