

The Hiawatha History Commission met on September 11, 2025, at Hiawatha City Hall in the 3rd Floor Council Conference Room with Pat Semelroth as Chair calling the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M. Members present: Pat Semelroth, Marilyn James and Chuck Graybill. Gary Classon attended as the interviewee. Janet Van Hoeck attended as a guest.

Interview – Interview with Gary Classon was recorded and is on file. Classon also provided notes that are on file.

Business:

Chuck Graybill moved the approval of the agenda, seconded by Marilyn James. Motion carried.

Marilyn James moved the approval of the August 21, 2025 minutes, seconded by Chuck Graybill. Motion carried.

Financial Update

No updates since the last meeting.

Our Town Videos Available

Jamie Fiedler gave an update from KCRG pertaining to the Our Town videos. Per Adam Carros, KCRG's News Director, the only way to get a copy of the segments would be to record them off of YouTube.

Availability of Hiawatha T-Shirts

Semelroth gave an update after speaking with Kari Graber about making more History Committee t-shirts. Kari will look into the price for long sleeved t-shirts. Semelroth asked the committee if they would like to stay with the same logo and colors. Graybill stated that promoting the city is inclusive and ambiguous at the same time. James stated that she had spoken with a couple from the American Legion and they really appreciated the red, white and blue. Semelroth asked is this something the commission even wants to do and do they have a need for the money. James replied that she thought it was a good idea. Semelroth agreed to give it a try. It was agreed to update the logo to include the "Hi" but keep the same colors. It was also agreed to try selling long sleeve shirts.

Recruit New Commission Members

Semelroth introduced the committee to Janet Van Hoeck who is interested in joining the committee. It was decided to move forward with taking Janet's addition to the committee to the Council for approval on the September 17th council agenda.

Graybill gave an updated regarding finding veterans names from Hiawatha for possible veteran banners for those that didn't return home. He reached out to the Legion and there isn't a list readily available. He also tried numerous different directions. He requested all branches from 1959 and on and will continue to reach out to see what he can find. Semelroth asked how these banners would be funded. Graybill suggested maybe have businesses sponsor them. Semelroth also suggested that maybe money raised from their t-shirt sales could go towards the banners.

Next meeting is September 11, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Graybell moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 am, seconded by James. Motion carried.