The Hiawatha History Commission meet 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, Pat Semelroth and Jerry Seifried. Don Gabel, Bev Daws and Roberta Hamdorf were absent.

Pat Semelroth moved the approval of the agenda, second by Dick Larson. Motion carried. Jerry Seifried moved the approval of the January 14, 2013 meeting minutes, second by Pat Semelroth.

The History Commission interviewed Jim Dyer before the business meeting began. Highlights of the interview are as follows:

* Jim Dyer is originally from California and in 1951 at age 13 he came to Iowa to find his mother.
* Jim graduated from McKinley School in 1955.
* In 1962 Jim started Brown and Dyer Construction Company.
* In 1963 Jim bought land in Hiawatha where Hawkeye Ready Mix is currently located.
* Within one year Jim added three employees and continued to grow from 50 to 100 people depending on projects.
* Burd Concrete is a brother-in-law.
* Jim build a house in 1964, living in Hiawatha for eight to nine years and later built a home by Toddville.
* Jim’s construction company built Bali-Hi, Camelot Apartments, Dairy Queen and other scattered property.
* Jim has three daughters still involved in the business.
* George Bowler bought foundations from Jim and when he was pulled over by Hiawatha Police, Jim had to go before George and was charged with a fine. George said no excuses.
* In 1970 Hawkeye Ready Mix bought 10 offices and trimmed down to six. Hiawatha was a main office.
* Jim gave land to the Hiawatha Library to build a new library. Originally the City Council voted no when he wanted to donate the land. Jim gave stipulation with the sale though and it ended up passing three to two. This worked out well.
* Jim helped start the Hiawatha Lions Club and is a member of Otter Creek Lions Club.
* Jim is still involved with Dairy Queen.
* Jim feels that Hiawatha is part of his business’ livelihood. He thinks Hiawatha is doing well and likes the direction the City is going. Visions are all good and important. You need to think 10 years ahead. By having businessmen on the City Council the City will go somewhere.
* By going from union to non-union and from Brown/Dyer to Hiawatha Ready Mix it benefited Jim’s company and his employees. After they disbanded, wages were cut by $2.00 per hour. The employees stayed and in the end it turned out better for all.
* Jim was a City Council member at one time.
* Jim’s advice to young people that want to start a business: get into business that you know something about, you have to sacrifice time and work under the other guy, and have a timeline.

**Short Business Meeting**

Upcoming Interviews –

* Re-contact Peckosh girls
* Greg Clark, tape of honorary members of the Lions Club Charter members.

Hiawatha Insight Articles –

* Graybill’s article in April newsletter

Future Work Session Dates –

* Bev Daws and Edie Wheeler came in and worked on albums

Metro Studio’s Update –

* Kim will call or email Connie at Metro Studios for last part of pictures and story line.

Other Discussion –

* Clarence Sampson is doing well and would like to visit a History Committee meeting.
* Pat Semelroth and Dick Larson will not be here for the May History Committee meeting.
* Invite Children’s Medical Campus to a meeting.

The next History Commission meeting will be held on May 13, 2013 at 1:30 p.m.

Edie Wheeler moved to adjourn at 3:06 P.M., second by Dick Larson. Motion carried.

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Edith Wheeler, Chair