

The Hiawatha History Commission met on January 13, 2025, at Hiawatha City Hall in the Council Chambers Conference Room with Pat Semelroth as Chair calling the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. Members present: Pat Semelroth and Marilyn James. Tom Patterson and Chuck Graybill 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 September 9, 2024, November 11, 2024 & December 9, 2024 minutes, seconded by Pat Semelroth. Motion carried.

Update from City 75th Birthday Meeting

A City 75th Birthday Meeting was held right before this History Commission meeting. In a continuation off of that meeting, Semelroth suggested having a parade marshal to lead the birthday parade. Patterson asked if Faye Clark had any kids or grandkids in the area that could be asked to marshal. It was then suggested by Graybill that maybe having the oldest resident of Hiawatha could be a possibility. Semelroth assigned the group to look into both if these as potential ideas. Semelroth also asked how we could communicate the event to people that have left Hiawatha.

Ideas for History Display at Birthday

Graybill said that he probably has photos that he could bring in the next meeting he attends. Semelroth suggested asking local organizations and businesses if they would have any memorabilia. James and Semelroth agreed that they would work on a letter to deliver to local businesses and organizations. James said she would reach out to Oscars and ask them. Semelroth said she would reach out to Peg Bader, local schools and churches. It was also agreed that the Insights article would be updated to ask local businesses and organizations specifically.

Activities for June 14

Activates for the Birthday were outlined during the prior Birthday meeting. Parks and Rec Director Kelly Willadsen's update during the Birthday meeting was as follows: The Hiawatha Water Department will be in charge of organizing and running the parade. The estimated run time for the parade is 1 – 1.5 hours. City employee Brentt Stepanek is part of the Elk's Club in Cedar Rapids and is looking into if it'd be possible for the Elk's to run the bingo tent – the Elk's need to check how their gambling license would work outside of their current location. The Hiawatha Public Library has secured a fire dancer for the 2:00 – 5:00 schedule. Prestige Dance Company will perform right after the parade. Events during the 2:00 – 5:00 schedule: Inflatable RC track, balloon artist, bingo, petting zoo, trackless train, ferris wheel, ice cream eating contest (Kelly is waiting to hear back from Culver's), possible Power Wheels Nationals and food trucks (still TBD which). Events during the 5:00 – 9:00 schedule: Air FX, face painter, inflatables, ferris wheel, food trucks (still TBD which), Mill Creek Band will perform 6:00 – 9:30 and fireworks will start around 9:30 – 10:00. The History Center will be providing a history exhibit. Events that are still to be determined: pickleball tournaments and kids water ball tournament. There needs to be a follow up with Fire Chief Power's on the water ball tournament. Public Works Superintendent Rod Jasa and Kelly will be working with Banacom on the banners.

Next meeting is February 10, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

James moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:14 PM, seconded by Semelroth. Motion carried.