

The Hiawatha History Commission met on November 11, 2024, at Hiawatha City Hall in Conference Room D with Pat Semelroth as Chair calling the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. Members present: Pat Semelroth and Marilyn James. Hiawatha City Manager Dennis Marks, Tom Patterson, Liz Mathis from HEDCO and Jason and Tara from the Linn County History Center.

### **Interview – None**

### **Business:**

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

Approval of the September 9<sup>th</sup> minutes were moved to a later meeting.

### **Linn County History Center**

Liz Mathis introduced herself and explained how she's on the board of the Linn County History Center and gave a small overview of how the board works and what they do. Jason and Tara introduced themselves and what their roles are at the History Center. Mathis went on to explain how Hiawatha's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday is coming up and how we're looking for some sort of mobile history display. She stated that if local businesses were to donate, the money would go towards the History Center and all the work they'd be able to do for us. Jason stated that their mission is to preserve and tell the story. Tara explained some other local businesses that they've worked with and examples of what they did with those businesses. She explained it's up to the history commission on what and how much they're involved. Jason then gave examples of their oral history programs and explained that they work with interns from the University of Northern Iowa to help transcribe their events. City Manager Marks asked more about the retractable type banners and what a time line would look like for a finished project. Tara replied that something could be completed in 4 – 6 months. Jason stated that the industry standard now is stories, not so much timelines. He suggested picking 5 – 6 stories that can be told and that people tend to walk away with more from something like that. Semelroth stated that Metro Studios has made videos in the past and that they're on the cities website and suggested they could look at those and all past commission interviews are recorded. Mathis stated that what they're looking for most is mobility and durability. Banners could be easily put together by June. She also suggested picking a theme and then looking for interviews that fit into that theme. Marks asked if this is being done for a singular even or will this be expanded on for future use. Mathis and Semelroth both agreed that it should be as interactive as possible. Marks asked what the ballpark budget would be. Jason replied that they'd need a scope of the project. Tara agreed that it depends on the format. Banners are reasonable. Mathis stated that an early goal funding number from local businesses could be around \$25,000. Tara also stated that she would love to get ahold of as many original photos as possible. Semelroth stated that they would think about themes. Mathis concluded that from here Tara will follow up with work on themes on a phone call at a later date. Jason followed up that the next step should be to have Semelroth and James meet at the History Center with Tara on November 21<sup>st</sup> at 11am.

Next meeting is December 9, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

James moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:32 PM, seconded by Semelroth. Motion carried.

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Pat Semelroth, Chair