

The Hiawatha History Commission met on September 9, 2024, at Hiawatha City Hall in Conference Room D with Pat Semelroth as Chair calling the meeting to order at 1:32 P.M. Members present: Pat Semelroth and Marilyn James. Chuck Graybill attended as a visitor.

Interview – None

Business:

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

Marilyn James moved the approval of the August 12, 2024 minutes, seconded by Pat Semelroth. Motion carried.

Recap of 75th Birthday from meeting with City Staff

Semelroth asked if a recap of notes could be given from the last city staff birthday meeting, Deputy Clerk Amy Scheer gave a recap of her notes. Semelroth then opened discussion on the date of the event, they are uncomfortable having the celebration on the 14th because of the Robins Roundup happening the same weekend. Chuck Graybill commented that the day shouldn't exactly matter, it's more about the year that should count. Semelroth suggested moving the celebration to the following weekend of the 21st, Graybill stated that was the old Hog-Wild Days weekend. Semelroth said she would email City Manager Marks for further discussion. Semelroth next brought up the birthday banner discussion, she stated that city staff have created a committee to spearhead that and she would wait for a follow up from them on its progress. Semelroth then discussed what time the parade should start; she believed starting it in the morning or before noon would be the best option. She went on to discuss how there would need to be activities to do in the meantime and referenced the city of Atkins Watermelon Days flyer to show how their scheduled events are sponsored by some sort of community organization. Semelroth next brought up for discussion how to best display the Hiawatha History exhibit, she stated that they would think about how to do this before the next city staff birthday meeting in October. Graybill suggested also making the history tour somehow available on-line. Next discussion topic was what type of bands to have at the celebration. James suggested reaching out Parks and Rec Director Willadsen to see which of their Music in the Park bands drew the biggest crowds this summer. Graybill suggested reaching out to the New Horizon's band, he believed they perform free of charge. Semelroth discussed reaching out to the Hiawatha Kids League to see if they would have ball tournaments that weekend, if so, would they be willing to run their concession stand in addition for the other food options that might be available. Graybill suggested asking a local church if they would want to run a food tent. Discussion was concluded with Semelroth stating that she would email Marks and Willadsen a list of questions that were brought up from this recap.

List of Hiawatha organizations for 75th Birthday 2025

Discussion was had on coming up with a list of Hiawatha organizations that could be contacted for sponsorships or volunteering. That list was as follows: Lions Club (Graybill believed the Hiawatha branch has merged with the Otter Creek branch), American Legion, Zion Lutheran Church, St. Elizabeth's Church, Hope Church, New Beginnings Church, the local Boy Scout Troop, Hiawatha Kids League, Kennedy High School, Prairiewood's, Friends of the Hiawatha Parks Foundation, Friends of the Hiawatha Library Foundation, Dancers Edge, and possibly a 4H group that meets locally. Semelroth stated to continue thinking of organizations. James stated that she would reach out to Hiawatha Kids League. Graybill stated that he would reach out to the New Horizons band for more information.

Next meeting is October 14, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

James moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:42 PM, seconded by Semelroth. Motion carried.