

FORT CALHOUN ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING February 1, 2016
(Rescheduled meeting for January 2016)
5:45 PM Fort Calhoun City Hall

The meeting was called to order by Judy Boyd, Chairman; the open meeting policy was announced.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Committee members included Judy Boyd, Rosemary Therkildsen, Cheri Oelke, Lori Lammers, Sue Newman and Coleene Robinson.

Absent: Ginger Appel & Amanda Schrum

The minutes of the November 2015 meeting were read by Sue Newman. (Our December meeting was cancelled due to weather). A move to approve the minutes as read was made by Rose and seconded by Coleen.

Words for inspiration by Sue Newman. Sue shared a recap of all the accomplishments made by the Enhancement Committee, and others, over the past years to improve and enhance our town:

- Installed decorative trash barrels.
- Put black benches on Main Street.
- The Lewis and Clark Mural by the Conoco.
- Decorative street flags on the lamp posts. (Changed seasonally).
- Marshall Suverkubbe Historical Marker (The research and submission to the Nebraska State Historical Board was done by the Enhancement Committee, the installation was done in conjunction with a Boy Scout Eagle Project).
- Trail head landscaping by the Marshall Suverkubbe historical marker.
- Protective fences by the bike trail (in conjunction with a Boy Scout Eagle Project).
- Trees at the ball park complex made possible by grants obtained by the Enhancement Committee.
- Plantings and benches on the lower trails by Pioneer Park.
- Implemented and maintains the "Streetscape" on Highway 75, (planted trees, installed brick edging around trees and put in identifying markers in front of trees).
- Fort Calhoun School at Washington Square Historical Marker. The research and submission of text to the Historical Board and obtaining the funds was done by the Enhancement Committee. The installation was coordinated with an Eagle Scout project.
- Seasonal flower pots on Main Street are planted and maintained throughout the season by The Enhancement Committee.
- Christmas lighting and decorations in front of City Hall and on the park bridge, are installed and taken down by members of the Enhancement Committee.
- Yearly participation in the Homecoming Parade.
- Throwing of "Spirit" towels at High School events.
- Yearly participation in "Tractors Tall and Small" by handing out free watermelon.
- Each Halloween the Enhancement Committee gives out Hot dogs and treats at the City Park.
- Participation in Christmas in Calhoun by giving out cookies and cocoa during the live nativity

- Spring "Clean Up" held each year, with flyers and newspaper notices inviting town participation as part of Earth Day.
- Implemented the "Adopt a Street" program with signs indicating the name of those committed to keeping their street clean.
- Introduced a Saturday morning Farmers Market in the summer of 2015.

Sue also wanted us to recognize the contributions to the community that have been done in the past by other organizations that we still enjoy today:

- The Lewis and Clark stone marker at West Market Square from 1904. (It was then moved in 1919.
- The Birdbath in the park that was donated in 1922 in memory of "Grandpa" Woods a local historian and Fort Calhoun correspondent for the Blair paper.
- The Old Stone Mill markers in the park that are from the Elam Clark Mill and the Rohwer Farm.
- The Fort Atkinson Foundation
- The Washington County Historical Association
- The Fort Calhoun Youth Sport Association and the ball field volunteers
- The Volunteer Fire Department
- The Christmas in Calhoun volunteers
- The Fort Calhoun Women's Club (Established in 1904)

Sue shared with us part of a book about the history of Fort Calhoun called "A Changing Dream", included is the following quote: *"From parks, to laws, to spring cleanups, there have always been members of the Fort Calhoun community working to make the city a better place to live."*

OLD BUSINESS:

Christmas in Calhoun Report: The Christmas in Calhoun event was once again a success. Giving out cookies and cocoa at the new location by the Church worked out well. It was suggested that we think about what more the Enhancement Committee can do at next year's event.

Signs for the mature trees on Main Street: Lori has the website for markers for the Sycamore trees. She will research.

Installation of a "patio" at the Elementary School Historical Marker:

This project is tabled until Spring. At that time the area will be measured and the pricing and approval process will begin.

Winter care of trees: Letters to the business owners were sent out, however, snow piled against the trees continues to be an issue. The problem may be that the business owners are often not the ones removing the snow. Lori volunteered to talk to the owners involved and ask them to remind their snow removal people to be mindful of the trees. Installation of snow "fences" was discussed, but it was determined that they may not help because the snow would become trapped inside the fence and harm the trees.

City Hall Flag Pole: Tabled until Spring

New Business:**Election of Officers:**

The following slate of officers was presented: Chairman – Judy Boyd, Vice Chairman – Lori Lammers, Secretary – Cheri Oelke.

A motion was made by Sue and seconded by Rose to accept the slate of officers as presented.

Financial Report: Current balance is \$9,302.10.

Invitation to Deb Sutherland: Deb Southerland has been added to our email notifications however, Judy will issue a personal invitation to Deb to join our meetings since many of the goals outlined in the Community and Economic development plan are in line with the goals of the Enhancement Committee.

Review accomplishments of 2015: These were covered in Sue’s opening report.

Goals for 2016:

- Move forward with the Elementary School Marker. It has been 3 years since the monument company in Blair said they would donate a stone and put on a picture of the school when a rejected stone came available. Since no stone has become available in that length of time, it was decided that we should proceed with the project using our funds to purchase a stone. It was suggested that we look into the possibility that Keno funds could help with this expense.
- To look into the installation of highway signs indicating the location of the Fort Calhoun Historical Markers. This would have to be coordinated with the Department of Roads as well as City Council.
- Identify the history behind the Mill Stone currently located in the City Park. This will need to be coordinated with the Park Board.
- Spring Planting. It was discussed that we explore other suppliers for our plants this Spring.
- Possible participation in the “Whisky Barrel” planting competition at the Washington County Fair.
- Farmers Market. Amanda plans to send out flyers to determine the amount of interest among vendors. It was suggested that we consider moving the day to a Thursday evening instead of Saturday morning in order to take advantage of the week day traffic. It was also suggested that more signage is required as well as a rotation of volunteers from the Enhancement Committee to be there each week.
- Participation in the Great American Clean up in April. The Presbyterian Church would like to participate and asked if we would be in charge.
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Public Comments: There were no public comments.

A move to adjourn was made by Lori and seconded by Coleene. The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting scheduled for Monday, February 29, 2016, 6:00 pm at City Hall.

Cheri Oelke
FCEC Secretary