



MINUTES

Indianola Hometown Pride

Kick-Off Meeting and Volunteer Information Session

February 8, 2018 at 5:30 pm

Indianola City Hall, City Council Chambers (110 N First Street)

Attendance: Doug Bylund, Lorin Ditzler, Joe Gezel, Lisa Harms, Heather Hulen, Jill Johnson, Emmett Konrad, Kerry McKasson, Angela Nelson, Terry Pauling, Jenn Pfeifer-Malaney, Brianna Vaughn, Ryan Waller, Becky Wigeland

1. Overview of Hometown Pride

Waller and Ditzler gave an overview Hometown Pride and how the program was brought to Indianola.

2. Brainstorming: What should Indianola Hometown Pride do? (Group Discussion)

The meeting attendees discussed what they like about Indianola and what things they would like to improve. A summary of the discussion is below:

What we like about Indianola:

- Great place to raise a family
- Lots of opportunities
 - Events, college, opera, lake, etc.
- “We do summer really well” – lots of summer activities
- Indianola is pretty big, but still has a small town feel
- Sense of community
- We have a city center, the square
- Very caring community

Opportunities for change in Indianola / Things we would like to do:

- A better way to get the word out about events. Need a central hub
- Letting people know they are in Indianola, and directing them to what’s here

- Welcome signs and special attraction signs
- Telling people about the many opportunities to get involved.
 - A community organization fair?
- Improve home/yard appearance. Some yards have furniture, etc. in them.
 - Offer assistance to those who are unable to fix up their yard/house
 - Do a clean-up day
 - Yard of the month?
- Refresh rundown buildings on 65 & 92. High visibility.
- Offer more incentives for businesses to fix up their buildings
- Maintenance of downtown parking areas
- Add bike racks
- Add public art
- Get a wider variety of people involved in community life – will help offer fresh perspectives
- Keep investing in the square
 - What happens to the courthouse?
 - Focus on retail options in the square
- Support local businesses
- Let Des Moines know that we are closer than you think
- We can draw people from around the County
 - Can we survey what those people want?
- More restaurant variety (beyond pizza or Mexican)
- Public transportation options
- Hometown Pride should involve service clubs in our work

3. Volunteer Opportunities

Ditzler explained that individuals who wish to get involved in Hometown Pride have 2 options:

1. Join the committee; 2. Sign up for the volunteer roster to help as-needed.

Attendees filled out a volunteer interest survey.

4. Next steps: City Council approval of committee, Future meetings

Committee applications will be send to City Council for their approval. Ditzler will keep volunteers updated once we know the dates of the Council review and the next meeting.