

Attendants: Jim Miller, Lonn Atwood, Joe Ferguson, Darrel Novacek, Mark Hall, Tom Schommer, Paula Pflueger, Dick Wozniak, Clark Froehlich, Webb McNally, Les Mann, Holly Sisson, Drew Oswald, Steve Sunderman, Jordan Sunderman, Hilary Smith, Mariah Morgan & Brittany Z.

Miller called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. There were a couple more Youth Leadership members so they introduced themselves. Hall motioned to approve the minutes, Froehlich second, motion approved. Atwood will be in touch with the Youth Leadership Council to set up a time for a presentation with the youth. The Youth Leadership Council's last meeting day is May 25th.

Novacek reported on the Finance Committee. The balance is still at \$54,000. Glen and Jan Einspahr are willing to donate money, but haven't decided how much and Ed McClymont said he would give \$250.00 personally, but not C.O.E Cattle. There are currently 17 people that have volunteered to go solicit money and the committee would like a couple more. McNally has agreed to be one of the "Honorary" Members, but they are still looking for another person. When this was starting in the 70's the city and newspapers were very supportive and involved. Harry Nurenberg was a name that was brought up because he has history with the river and Midwest Bridge. This would be easier to research if we had dates to look up. The newspaper and Library should have old archives on file. If anyone has stories and photos, this would personalize and rise awareness. Hall has put together a list of questions that can be used to help solicit funds.

Atwood said that the selection committee met last Friday, May 2, and went through the initial proposals. Hopefully there is room for negotiation, because there is a bit of sticker shock. The group is going to meet with HDR on May 15. After they negotiate and if they can't come to an agreement, they will go to their next selection. This needs to be done slow and right. After negotiations are settled then the brochure will be finalized and the firm can meet with the public. This will take time to sort all the details out.

Hall reported that he is working with Stappert on creating a website for Riverwalk. This could be kept at a minimal cost and have people volunteer to update information and keep blogs. The Youth Council could help out on this project. They will ask their group if that is something they would be willing to do. A solid website could end up costing around \$2000. Maybe some of the work can be done as in-kind. One idea would be to have businesses sponsor ads on the site. This could defer some costs. There might be a need in the future for a sub-committee of marketing, public relations or media.

The Trails is still working on routes. This will involve the railroad. Staab went to a presentation at the NE Trails Conference in Grand Island and talked about the Cowboy Trail. This now extends from Norfolk to Valentine and will eventually go into Chadron. He talked about the Willow Creek Trail, Maskentine, and Riverwalk trails. The Department of Roads was at this conference and it was about building and funding the trails. A lot of people are very excited. Schommer talked to a guy that has rode his bike from Norfolk to Valentine. One challenge to overcome is finding room for bike paths next to the city streets. 25th Street is going through a widening process and this would be a good time to try to get a path for bike riders. The city has a master trails plan that has sections of the plan completed. Atwood mentioned that someone called him about a house that is for sale. This needs to be discussed about what the group will do in the future when the opportunity presents itself. Maybe someone could buy the land and trade the city for a different part of land.

Atwood reported that the NorthFork Potato Chip Company is interested in working with the group. It could be "Chip-In" for Community Development. Affiliated and HyVee's could be asked to be involved with this as an on-going fundraiser. The group would like to support downtown as much as possible. The next meeting will be held at a different location. The Downtown Coffee Co. and Reeder Originals should be checked into for lunch meetings. The Lifelong Learning Center is available also. Hall mentioned that the Great American Comedy Festival is coming to town in June and that this could be a way to advertise Riverwalk. This needs to be approved by Kent Warneke or Lora Young. Schommer moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by Holly Sisson