

AUGUST 2, 2011

The Fergus Falls Retirees Group met at the VFW with 27 members and 6 guest present, Jerry Toso led the meeting for Vince Thoma. The meeting was called to order following the meal served by the VFW Auxilliary.

The guest speaker, Laurie Mullen was introduced. She is working with the Friends of the Kirkbride who are trying to save the facility for development. In 2004, the City Council met to to decide what to do with the Kirkbride. The people who wanted to save the facility starting working toward that end. 3,500 signed a petition in 2005. More than 4,000 people have toured it. They have been trying to get development started. A college campus was going to be an idea, but that didn't work out because of events that happened at the colleges and the economic times have impacted the effort.

The Kirkbride is a very large facility. She cited how the different campuses throughout the country have been redeveloped. Developers tour 60 Kirkbride facilities. 12 have been redeveloped. They have been put to many uses. Examples are: Washington D.C. used theirs for the Homeland Security offices. Wilmer has used theirs for a business condo leading to 300 jobs. Traverse City is a mixed use facility, Sydney Australia used theirs for a College of Arts. Many other uses were cited. The facilities developed slowly over time because they are so large. Wilmer still has some development to go.

The Kirkberide was put on a list of Minnesota's 10 most endangered list. Every Friday is booked with tour groups of 25 to 35 people. The nurses cottage has been sold and will be renovated .The outside may look like it is crumbling but is in very sound condition and have been checked by architects and others. There is a huge tax incentive from that state and Federal government that would help with the cost of development.

The Friends of the Kirkbride think we have a jewel with the facility and the surrounding grounds.. Following the presentation, there was a short video presentation for anyone who wanted to see it. It showed some of the great developments that have been done to other Kirkbrides.

Birthdays for July were Val Nelson and Lavonne Knutson. Val Nelson's anniversary was also in July.

August birthdays were Paul Anderson and Frank Dozack Aniversaries were the Frank and Shirley Dozack and Ginny and Sandy Paulson.

The secretary's report was read and an addition was added by Elroy Mauk that the Productive Alternatives also provide respite care of the clients in group homes when they are on vacation

The treasures report was read and approved.

There was no old business and the new business was a reminder that we need officers for the election in September.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Hensch, Secretary