

Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning 2016

Community: University Heights
Minutes by Trees Forever Field Coordinator: Hannah Howard
Date and Time: Wednesday, March 23rd, 7 PM
Meeting Length: 1.5 Hours
Location: Horn Elementary
Meeting Number and Title: #3 Bioregional Mapping

Number of committee members in attendance: 10

Names of committee members in attendance: Virginia Miller, Thad Wunder, Karen Drake, Sara O'Sullivan, Michael Gay, Martha Terry, Dotti Maher, Janis Deyak, Nancy Barth, Silvia Quezada, Hannah Howard (Trees Forever)

Meeting Summary:

Hannah began the meeting with a summary of February's meeting, again emphasizing recruitment and other important details of the TAB Workshop. An update was also given on the surveys, at the last meeting 144 surveys were in, now 159 surveys had been returned! Committee members mentioned how great the community response has been thus far to the visioning process and how positive UH residents are about hearing of upcoming projects.

The committee discussed how recruitment was going and so far, everyone has done a great job of getting RSVPs! A master list of the compiled RSVPs for each focus group was passed around and committee members checked it for accuracy. All were encouraged to try to get an idea of how many children and what ages to expect at the workshop. Hannah explained that an important part of the TAB Workshop is community members understanding that this process is coming from within the community, led by a committee of local people. She asked that at least one committee member was present for the three focus group times so that they could interact with the focus group participants as they arrived and discuss the visioning process with them (rather than it coming from an outside party like Trees Forever or Iowa State). Dotti and Mike signed up for the 9 am focus group, Virginia the 10 am and Nancy the 11 am group. All other committee members should plan on attending the workshop from 1 to 4 pm, which will include the steering committee 2 hour focus group and 3:30 pm presentation of results.

Other workshop details that were discussed included the importance of the parental consent forms for youth and to send reminders to both focus group participants and all those that were on the fence about attending. The workshop will take place, rain or shine. Committee members should continue to send Hannah additional RSVPs so they can be added to the master list. Hannah also asked if anyone would be willing to help provide lunch for the Trees Forever and ISU crew heading up the workshop as there would not be enough time to run out and grab food.

Hannah led the committee through the bioregional mapping exercise. This exercise is meant to start a discussion about University Heights and help the committee to learn from the maps provided, but also learn from each other. A series of maps were laid out around

Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning 2016

the room and committee members chose which discussion to be a part of. The three different sets of maps and discussions that took place included one set of maps regarding the historical settling and vegetation of University Heights, another regarding water issues including depth to ground water and location of watershed, and the final map was University Height's urban tree inventory.

After ten minutes of discussion, each group reported out to everyone about the most interesting things they learned from the map or discovered from one another. There was a lot of discussion regarding the watershed. Despite seeing much of a connection on the depth to ground water map, many committee members discussed various drainage issues around town. Seepage areas were identified on the map as well as sidewalks and other areas that were frequently wet or semi flooded. Someone pointed out that there used to be an old marsh in the SE area of town that was never supposed to be developed. The urban forest map also provided a lot of great discussion. University Heights is unique in that it is so heavily forested and many of the committee members are actively involved in tree planting to ensure that it remains that way. Luckily there are only 22 ash trees or approximately 12% ash, however 44% of the communities trees are maple. The committee discussed the importance of diversity and ideas for replanting moving forward.

The meeting adjourned around 8:30 pm.

Next Meeting: TAB Workshop, Saturday April 9th at St. Andrews Church.