Iowa's Living Roadways community visioning

Meeting Minutes

Community: Clarion

Meeting Title: Review of Assessments (_AssessmentReview_Mtg)

If Other:

Meeting Number: 6

Trees Forever Facilitator: Meredith Borchardt

Minutes Completed By: Meredith Borchardt

Meeting Date: May 9, 2017

Meeting Location: Public Library

Meeting Time (Start-Finish): 5:00 -6:15 pm

Meeting Length: 1.25 hours

Number of Committee Members in Attendance: 7

Names of Committee Members in Attendance:

Peggy O'Neil, Andy Young, Barb Mussman, Michelle Walters, Karen Weld, Rev. Mike Gudka, and Susan Toftey

Number of Non-Committee Members in Attendance: 1

Names of Non-Committee Members in Attendance:

Meredith Borchardt (Trees Forever)

Meeting Summary:

Tonight's meeting focused on reviewing all of the assessment information that has been gathered to date. This includes the bioregional maps, survey, and transportation assets and barriers workshop. We began by viewing a 5 minute video compiled by Iowa State University partners summarizing results of the survey. Surveys were mailed to a random sample of Clarion households in January. 174 people returned it, for an outstanding response rate of 50.4%. It showed the questions included on the survey, how one was filled out, and then transcribed route maps for commuting, walking, and biking, plus desired trail routes. One person noted that there is a lot of walking in the northern half of town, particularly around and near the schools. Another mentioned there were no bikers on Lake Road going to the lakes; currently there are very narrow shoulders, heavy vehicular traffic, and it is not safe. On the desired trails, respondents strongly expressed wanting a loop around town. Overall results seem to be pretty similar to input from the committee as well as from the TAB workshop.

Next we broke into 3 small teams who each reviewed posters of information. Then we got back into large group to share highlights from each. The bioregional maps revealed 48% of the land cover in the community is ag. which was surprising. One person noted there is adequate land for development, which led into a discussion of a lack of senior housing and rental housing, and the need to have parks, trails, and green space accompany future development. With projected population growth in the near future with a large new employer (Prestage) coming to the county, there is a need to consider amenities

Meeting Summary (cont.)

that newcomers would look for (such as parks, trails, rec. center, good local schools, etc.). The team reviewing bioregional maps also noted that there is a lot of surface water, the community is part of several different watersheds, and the water table is very near the surface in quite a bit of town. One person mentioned the high school gym floor has been wet a number of times and has had to be replaced. Another commented that more paved areas will create more runoff, so that needs to be balanced with future development. Finally, there is a lack of native plants and wetlands in the area which could help absorb runoff.

The team reviewing the survey posters commented that people drive everywhere in town. That led into a discussion of a lack of safe places for bikers and walkers. One mentioned 86% of people commute to work, which is pretty high for a town the size of Clarion.

Finally, the team reviewing TAB posters read a few quotes from each demographic group and talked about representative assets and barriers. Overall they summarized a desire for better sidewalks, trails, better connected parks; park improvements could be a good short-term project to tackle, followed by trails, and then sidewalks which will be a long-term project over several years.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 16 with the design team. At that meeting committee members will share highlights from assessment information, the design team will overview the transportation meeting, and together we'll talk about how best to focus their design work this summer. In addition, we will finalize details for the June 10 design workshop. Andy and Peg offered to give the design team a tour of the community after the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:15.