

Community: Colfax

Minutes by Trees Forever Field Coordinator: Leslie Berckes

Date and Time: June 7, 2016; 6:30pm

Meeting Length: 1.5 hrs

Location: United Methodist Church

Pre-Goal Setting

Number of committee members in attendance: 6

Visioning Committee Members Attending: Don Edwards, Jeff Davidson, Doug Garrett, Dave Mast, Kim Seebeck, Travis Cook
Leslie Berckes (Trees Forever), Bruce Niedermeyer and Sara Davids (RDG)

Summary:

The pre-goal setting meeting in Colfax started out with an introduction of Bruce Niedermeyer and Sara Davids of RDG. Bruce is the landscape architect and Sara is the Iowa State landscape architecture student and intern who will work with Colfax throughout the design process. Both Bruce and Sara will attend each Colfax Visioning meeting until the committee reaches implementation planning.

Most of the meeting was devoted to reviewing the public input and assessment boards created by Iowa State. Multiple boards were created that detail the information received from the survey and the data collected during the Transportation Assets and Barriers workshop on April 16.

First, the committee reviewed the Transportation Assets and Barriers boards. The information was broken down into the different demographic categories: seniors, active recreation users, youth, and parents. Information from the steering committee was also included. Steering committee members took time to look at the boards with quotes from the day, barriers identified, desired improvements, and main transportation routes. A few of the boards are included below. After reviewing, the committee got back together to discuss things that surprised them or that they learned. Overall, nothing really surprised the committee from the input received. The focus groups talked about poor road conditions, lack of sidewalks, and poor visibility at some of the intersections in the hillier part of town.

Next, the committee took time to review the survey boards. Of the 351 surveys that were sent, 161 were returned for a response rate of 45.9%. The information from this random sample of Colfax residents sought information on community routes (most people take I80 to Des Moines), walking routes (W Division Street, S Walnut Street, S Kelly Street, and Olive Avenue are the most frequently use routes), desired trails (many people identified Quarry Springs Park as a good place for a trail), and other information on people's preferred transportation routes. The boards are going to be made available to all committee members for additional review. The committee came back together to discuss the information and the fact that nothing on the boards was new or that surprising. A couple committee members made comment about the high park usage and in particular Lewis park, but in general, the information received confirmed what the committee already knew about how people are using the transportation system in Colfax.

Throughout the review, the committee compared the idea list they had generated for potential projects to the assessment information. Project ideas that align with the information seen during the meeting include improvements to Hwy 117, more lighting in town, safe routes to schools (i.e. sidewalk improvement), and

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more. Leslie will send out the PDF's so committee members can spend more time reviewing the information. The boards were left with the committee so that they could share the information with other committees and post around town.

Finally, the committee talked about the next steps in the meeting process. On June 28, the committee will hold its Transportation meeting where representatives from the DOT, county engineer, county conservation, and the city will be present to layout any concerns related to transportation or planned changes to the transportation system. The committee will hold its Goal Setting meeting on June 28th as well.

Potential project ideas include:

- Highway 117 Beautification
 - Complete streets, safety, beauty, better access
- Redevelopment of the Monroe Table property
- Develop the entryways into town to make them inviting – something that signals your coming into Colfax.
- More lighting particularly at the entrance of 117 off Hwy 80.
- Improve the pedestrian bridge across the river
- Turn Hwy 117 into three lanes with a turn lane in the middle
- Address sidewalk issues throughout town
- Safe routes to school
- Create recreational routes throughout town
- Curb and gutter
- Improved road conditions
 - Some of the roads have the old brick under the roadway – could this be exposed?