

Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning 2016

Community: Kalona
Minutes by Trees Forever Field Coordinator: Dustin Hinrichs
Date and Time: Thursday March 3, 2016
Meeting Length: 1.5 hours
Location: Kalona Community Center/City Hall
Meeting Number and Title: Bioregional Workshop

Number of committee members in attendance: 8

Names of committee members in attendance: -- Sean Cortum, Gloria Hochstedler, Mark Robe, Phil Ropp, Ryan Schlabaugh, Joe Schmidt, Anthony Spitzer, Craig Spitzer, and Dustin Hinrichs (Trees Forever)

Meeting Summary:

Dustin (Trees Forever) started the meeting by reviewing the plans the steering committee made for the Transportation Assets and Barriers focus groups day on March 19th and then reviewing the process for steering committees when recruiting for the focus groups. Ryan Schlabaugh also communicated with committee members how he would like to receive the recruits for the focus groups and how he would be tracking that data. Dustin then distributed 60 copies of a recruitment document for committee members to use and 15 copies of flyers advertising for the same event. It was also discussed that a press release will be sent out to Washington County media outlets first thing next week.

Next Dustin described the Bioregional Mapping exercise, counted the committee off into 3 groups and got them each a worksheet and notepad to work off of. The groups were given 30 minutes to review their maps and respond to the prompt questions. At the end of that time the groups were brought back together to share their observations with the larger group. Their notes are transcribed below.

The next meeting of the committee will take place on March 19th for the focus groups workshop. Ryan Schlabaugh will be communicating with the group on recruitment status for the different groups to focus their efforts accordingly.

Group 1:

- Located in Ramsey Creek/English River Watershed
 - Puddling and ponding mostly occur on the west edge of downtown Kalona and along highway 22
 - Wet basements in roughly 80% of Kalona homes
 - Rain water in Kalona flows from yards and properties to storm sewers (for the most part) and then into area creeks
 - No real logical pattern for growth based on water
 - Higher water table (or more shallow...) on south end of town, nearer the river
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Group 2:

- Lack of tree cover in industrial areas and in newer neighborhoods
 - Interesting to note that Richmond was larger than Kalona in the 1870s but lost out to Kalona on the railroad and much of the town was moved to Kalona!
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- Historic settlement pattern has radiated out from the central part of the town but future development will likely focus on the Northern, and Eastern, and Northeastern borders of the community due to gravity concerns for their sewer system
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Group 3:

- Located along the English River amidst prairie and between timber areas to the east, west, and south
 - More trees in town historically, especially in central/downtown. East and west sides had more trees and timber cleared for farming, water is now tiled away from these areas
 - Most structures and development has been focused south of highway 22 and this area could use more trees and green spaces
 - For the most part the tree cover in the city is good but not very diverse
 - Major park is located in SE of town but population is concentrated north of highway 22 – kind of strange
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Next Meeting will be the Focus Groups day – Saturday March 19 at the Community Center