

Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning 2016

Community: Monona

Minutes by Trees Forever Field Coordinator: Emily Swihart

Date and Time: February 13, 2016

Event Length: 8 hours

Location: Monona Community Center

Meeting Number and Title: 3; Transportation Asset and Barrier Workshop

Number of committee members in attendance: 10

Names of committee members in attendance: -- Rogeta Halvorson (primary contact), Micah Decker, Craig Schmidt, Kerrill Schmidt, Jim Langhus, Shirley Seitz, Connie Halvorson, Gary Passmore, Fran Passmore, Pat Malanaphy, Emily Swihart (Trees Forever), Sandy Oberbrockling (Iowa State University), Matthew Gordy (Iowa State University), Megan Hassel (Court Reporter)

Meeting Summary:

Steering committee members, ISU interns, ISU facilitators, Trees Forever staff, and court reporter arrived to the Monona Community Center at 8:15am to set up the facility and prepare for the day. Two rooms were organized for focus group activities and an area was designated for photo training and returns.

A group introduction and overview of the day was held with the ISU folks, committee members and Trees Forever just prior to beginning the first sessions.

The committee prepared for the event by collecting names of community members who had been asked to participate, recording their answers and doing follow up emails and calls with those who committed. Attendance at the event reflected all the hard work put in by the committee and the amount of community pride the residents of Monona have. Numbers per focus group are as follows:

9:00am: Senior Citizens/Mobility Impaired: 13

10:00am: Parents: 7

10:00am: Youth: 8

11:00am: Active Recreation Users: 14

12:00noon: Steering Committee: 8

Total: 50

Attendees and all community members were invited to a wrap up session beginning at 2:00pm. At the wrap up, Swihart thanked everyone for their participation in the days events and explained how the Transportation Assets and Barriers Workshop fits within the Visioning process. Sandy demonstrated how to access the map of compiled photos on the Community Visioning website; <http://www.communityvisioning.org/>.

Instructions for accessing the Monona map:

On the home page, click on the link for TAB workshops, then select Monona from a drop down list of communities, and select Focus Group from a drop down list of Workshops. Photos can be sorted by focus group, type (green=asset, red=barrier), gender, and age to

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see different collections of photos. An individual photo and its associated descriptors can be seen by clicking on a red or green point on the map. Photos can be enlarged by clicking on them on the lower right side of the screen; we looked at several different views of the map. Some key themes that emerged through focus groups, photos, and discussion at the end of the day included:

- Butterfly Garden- The Butterfly Garden is an obvious point of pride for the community, one that was discussed and well represented in asset photographs
- Improving pedestrian comfort in the downtown- low levels of lighting, a need for amenities such as trash receptacles and seating, and awkward entry into some of the building were cited as areas to improve
- City Park- assets and barriers were identified in the park, existing amenities including a focal point shelter, gas grill stations and restroom facilities were identified as assets; areas to improve were identified as rough access road on the south, limited handicap accessibility to restroom facilities and maintenance of picnic facilities.
- Trail opportunities- the trail from the Butterfly Garden to Garden View was cited as a very popular recreation area, a desire was expressed to expand the trail to encompass the entire community and extend to the community of Luana.
- Street improvements- a few streets were identified as having high traffic volumes which has resulted in more wear and tear on the surface. Some of these roads include E. Walnut Street, S West Street, and S Page Street
- Gateway Park and the intersection of Main Street and Hwy 52- the intersection was cited as being difficult to navigate in a vehicle and as a pedestrian, traffic speeds and the intersection angle were identified creating discomfort; Gateway Park was identified as a underutilized asset that needs improvements such as restroom facilities, sidewalk access from adjacent businesses and the community, and needing more activity

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 5:00pm at the Monona Library.

The workshop was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Next committee meeting:

March 15, 2016, 5:00 pm at Monona Library