

Community: Monona
Minutes by Trees Forever Field Coordinator: Emily Swihart
Date and Time: March 15, 2016; 5:00pm
Event Length: 2 hours
Location: Monona Library
Meeting Number and Title: 4; Bioregional Assessment

Number of committee members in attendance: 11

Names of committee members in attendance: -- Rogeta Halvorson (primary contact), Craig Schmidt, Kerrill Schmidt, Jim Langhus, Shirley Seitz, Connie Halvorson, Gary Passmore, Fran Passmore, Dan Canton, Barb Collins, Emily Swihart (Trees Forever),

Meeting Summary:

Swihart called the meeting to order at 5:00pm by welcoming everyone and asking if anyone had immediate questions or concerns about the agenda. Hearing none the committee spent time reflecting on the Transportation Assets and Barriers event held on February 13, 2016. Consensus was made that the day was a great success with enough folks participating that each category of users needed two focus groups for better facilitation. The committee was also excited about the number of people who returned for the afternoon session where preliminary results of the event were presented. Many of those not able to attend the recap session were asking committee members about the results throughout the following weeks. Results from the day produced themes including lighting in the downtown area, the need for sidewalk improvements, and the photo mapping exercise produced clusters on the map which revealed themes of areas needing improvement and areas appreciated by community members. Swihart concluded by adding that she was grateful for the hard work the committee put into promoting the event and recruiting participants. Rogeta Halvorson was a huge asset in keeping track of the recruitment process and organizing refreshments for the day.

Swihart then lead the group through an exercise in bioregional mapping. Swihart explained that the exercise is meant to help the group make connections between how the landscape was, how the community developed, and what factors may contribute to how the community moves forward. Maps were compared in three general groups to help make information synthesis more focused but throughout the conversation committee members continued to make observations and references to other maps. The general categories were as follows with observations pulled from the conversation:

Watershed and Depth to Ground Water

- Monona is located at the highest point in Clayton County, as such has four watersheds that it contributes to
- Being high in the watershed is fortunate from a flooding potential but also means there is a responsibility to start the water treatment train at the top to protect communities lower in the watershed
- Monona has started the process of developing a stormwater management ordinance and permeable paving is being used in new construction areas

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- Monona has recently been recognized for stormwater management practices including a 2015 Stormwater Conference award for a permeable parking lot
- East Iowa Street is illustrated as having a depth to ground water of 6+ feet, the committee raised concerns that this is inaccurate as homes in that area experience flooded basements during a rain event

Historic Vegetation, Present Day Land Cover, and Present Day Vegetation Maps

- Being high in the watershed, historic vegetation was predominately prairie
- Community development has led to the introduction of a more varied land use pattern that was originally on site
- The downtown area is heavy with structures and roads/impermeable surfaces- very little vegetation is present- look for opportunities to add more vegetation
- Short root grasses are used in roadsides leading to erosion- committee was extremely interested in learning more about the use of native grasses and forbs in the roadways and how to work with roadside managers to accomplish such a planting.

Historic Settlement Patterns and Elevation Map

- Names were recognized
- Settlement patterns followed ridgetops and avoided drainage ways

The committee will revisit this information during an Inventory Review meeting prior to goal setting. That meeting will compare data from each inventory process (Transportation Assets and Barriers, Bioregional Assessment and Transportation meeting) as an exercise in synthesizing the set of data as an entire unit. The committee requested the digital version of the bioregional boards be shared with the committee. Swihart will add these files to the shared Dropbox file also used to share photo from the process.

Since the last meeting, schedule updates have been made. Swihart discussed potential changes with the committee and together, the group agreed on the following schedule for upcoming meetings.

- March 30 or March 31: Transportation meeting (Swihart has since confirmed this meeting for March 31 at 2:00pm at the Monona Chamber of Commerce Office)
- April 28 at 5:00pm at the Monona Library: Review of Inventory
- May 26 at 5:00pm at the Monona Library: Planning for the Design Workshop
- June 17 at 11:30am to 12:30 pm at the Community Center: Goal Setting
- June 17 at 12:30pm to 2:00pm: Community Tour
- June 18: Design Workshop at the Community Center
 - 6:30am: Set up
 - 7:00am to 2:00pm: Design Workshop Open to the Public

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- 2:00pm to 3:00pm: Public Presentation of Designs

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 31, 2016 at 2:00pm at the Monona Chamber of Commerce. Transportation officials, the design team, committee members and Trees Forever facilitator are invited.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 5:00pm at the Monona Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Next meeting:

March 31, 2016, 2:00 pm at Monona Chamber of Commerce

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Community: Monona
Minutes by Trees Forever Field Coordinator: Emily Swihart
Date and Time: March 31, 2016; 2:00pm
Event Length: 1 hour
Location: Monona Community Center
Meeting Number and Title: 5; Transportation Meeting

Number of committee members in attendance: 8

Names of committee members in attendance: -- Rogeta Halvorson (primary contact), Craig Schmidt, Jim Langhus, Connie Halvorson, Gary Passmore, Fran Passmore, Dan Canton, Barb Collins, Emily Swihart (Trees Forever), Eric Doll (Jeffrey L. Bruce), Rachelle Howe (UERPC), Rafe Koopman (Clayton County Engineer), Jenna Pollock (Clayton County Conservation), Krista Rostad (Iowa DOT), Kathie Rustad (Iowa DOT)

Meeting Summary:

After brief introductions, Swihart provided some context for today's meeting. Doll led a discussion of mapping transportation features and their relationship to potential projects. Here are some of the highlights:

- The main road through town is known by a few names including Main Street, Falcon Drive (in Clayton County), Volney Road (Allamakee County)
- The railroad is a Canadian Pacific line with approximately 8 trains a day, the trains average approximately 100 cars per train and in spite of the length rarely block traffic in town.
- New entry signs have been installed and it is desirable to build upon the branding look of the new signs in other elements of the community
- Monona is the second largest community in Clayton county (Guttenberg is largest)
- Traffic counts along Hwy 52 have been recorded and are available on line, the last count was recorded in 1967
- Long term planning- Hwy 18 is not currently on the Iowa Department of Transportation's plan for reconstruction; the west entry road, 120th Street, is the only one being considered by the county for resurfacing, this road has a shared jurisdiction with the city
- Hwy 52 and Main Street intersection was updated and has cautionary signage installed
- X26 south of the Hwy 52 and Main Street intersection receives a lot of traffic, there is talk of annexation to the south
- Current communications with Casey's and Dollar General have proved that it is difficult to find an acceptable location for construction; the businesses desire direct access to the highway corridor, sites available have no community access
- Significant landscape features include the Butterfly garden, memorial tree near Lutheran Church
- Desirable landscape features that might be explored include a pond near Butterfly Park and stormwater treatment enhancements near community entrances and

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- along major roads, IRVM plan has not been updated and the county has no roadside manager
- The map currently reflects the wrong location of D&J, it is actually located by Natural Gas Distribution, the bins by Joes Auto Body are also owned by D&J
 - Signs- there is an ordinance, the community has 9 districts each with its own specifications, the school and the funeral home have verbally committed to contributing funds to support new signage
 - All partners are willing to do a friendly review of concept plans as part of the design process.

The attendees were made aware of the upcoming Design Workshop scheduled for June 18, 2016 at which preliminary designs will be available for review and critique. Attendees will be reminded of the opportunity as the event draws nearer.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00.

Next meeting:

April 28, 2016, 2:00 pm at Monona Library