



**COMMUNITY VISIONING: SCOTCH GROVE, STEERING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: 2 February 2022  
Meeting Location: ZOOM + S.LA Studio  
Report Prepared: 2 February 2022

**ATTENDEES PRESENT**

Nick McGrath, Trees Forever (Meeting Host)  
Charlie Becker, Camp Courageous  
Alex Priest, Seelman Landscape Architecture  
Brett Seelman, Seelman Landscape Architecture  
Bob Helgens, Steering Committee, Scotch Grove  
Kylie Algers, Steering Committee, Scotch Grove  
Mary Beth Helgens, Steering Committee, Scotch Grove  
Paul Helgens, Steering Committee, Scotch Grove  
Roger Flom, Steering Committee, Scotch Grove

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Nick McGrath begins meeting at 13:05. Attendees introduced themselves, virtually and in-person
2. Nick shares his screen and begins the presentation. Nick reminds everyone that questions can be asked whenever and that Scotch Grove is a unique site because it is unincorporated. The presentation begins with an overview of the Iowa Living Roadway's Community Visioning program, a kickoff on how to be effective in communication efforts, and the next steps in the process. Nick is using a 25-page PDF that will be shared with attendees.
3. Nick then spoke about the planning steps and how the Visioning process moves along now-November. January through April are focused on Bioregional assessments done by Iowa State University. Nick confirmed that Scotch Grove will not have a Transportation Analysis; four communities are chosen each year. February will focus on Focus Groups. In April, Iowa State will sift through and code the focus groups results. May through June will set the goals of the design workshop and ideas from community input. August and September will be the Visioning Plan Presentation to the community. October is centered on how to make the plans happen with grant support. The process concludes in November with the Annual Celebration in Ames, Iowa.
4. Bob Helgen's asks for clarification on who the "Council" is for Scotch Grove as it is unincorporated. Nick adds that Scotch Grove can be creative on what this means, it could be a non-profit. Bob adds that Jones County is excited about Community Visioning. Charlie Becker reminds everyone that the county can sometimes take time for approval, but agreed that having John, the County Supervisor, from Jones County involved is a good thing. Nick affirms and will take these questions to Julia and Iowa State for further discussion. Brett Seelman adds that Scotch Grove is creating a new typology of "community" for Community Visioning and hopes to inspire other communities, like Scotch Grove who are under 10,000 residents. Bob added that the steering committee is open to other people being on the committee and the importance of incorporating the community's thoughts and ideas.
5. Nick moves forward in discussing the Bioregional Story Maps. This is for the next meeting. These maps will provide a historic and environmental perspective; including waterways and water table depth to understand how the landscape influences community features. This forthcoming Bioregional Assessment meeting, which Iowa State will be presenting digitally to the steering committee, is set for February 16, 2022 at 15:30-16:30, with a backup of February 23.

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6. Nick moves to discussing Focus Groups. Focus Groups are a way to get community involvement and buy in on the Visioning process. There are seven different groups that meet over the course of one day. It is important to get diverse perspectives to give feedback about Scotch Grove and transportation in the surrounding township/area.
7. Nick then transitioned to discussing the Landscape Architects role in the project. Again, Scotch Grove is unique in that Seelman Landscape Architecture (SLA) is already involved. SLA will take the community feedback and make designs and plans that include transportation, this is the soft roll out. The hard rollout is the community presentation and seeking funding to make the plans happen.
8. Nick then showed completed projects from Community Visioning before transitioning to a different presentation specifically about Scotch Grove. He reminded attendees that one post is required per year on Scotch Grove's webpage on the Community Visioning website. He confirmed that notes from this meeting can be added. Alex Priest volunteered to add the notes to the website as he attended the website training led by Sandy.
9. This second presentation started with Focus Groups. Nick reminded everyone that this is a big part of the process: to get community engagement, to increase community awareness on the Visioning process, and get diverse input. Seven different groups will meet focused on transportation. The seven focus groups areas, needing 6-10 individuals each, are: the steering committee, parents, active recreation users, older adults, mobility impaired individuals, youth 13+, and youth 6-12 years-old. There needs to be a minimum of six people per group. These meetings need to happen on a Saturday in February, March, or April so an Iowa State Intern can join. Charlie Becker volunteered to host these meetings at Camp Courageous and that they have a bus they can use to pick community members up as needed. The group selected April 9, 2022 as the date. Nick added that 2-3 groups will meet at 9am, 2-3 groups at 10am, and finally 2-3 groups at 11am. Nick and Iowa State will manage these events, but getting community members to attend is on the steering committee. Nick concluded by reminding the committee that these focus groups require 42-70 people to be in attendance. He said that as these people are confirmed to send the names to him so he can add them to a spreadsheet.
10. The group discussed various ways to attract people to these meetings including: flyers, social media, the Visioning website. Nick added that the hardest group to attract are the young people. Nick will provide a template for a mailer. Mary Beth Helgens suggested adding this invite in church bulletins and newspapers. Brett added that a suggestion box or board at Camp Courageous would be an opportunity to get opinions from campers, camp visitors, and staff as ~100,000 visitors and ~10,000 campers come through each year; each with their own set of desires and ideas.
11. The meeting then transitioned to discussing Local Geography. Chad from Iowa State updated the map presented in November that expands the boundaries of Scotch Grove to include the river and township. Brett is going to make additional notes and send them to Chad and Nick.
12. Concluding the meeting, the group discussed generating an Instagram and Facebook page for Scotch Grove to keep everyone updated.
13. The meeting was adjourned at 14:30.

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