

Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning 2016

Community: St. Ansgar
Minutes by Trees Forever Field Coordinator: Meredith Borchardt
Date and Time: Tuesday, June 7, 2016, 8:00 am
Meeting Length: 1.5 hours
Location: St. Ansgar City Hall
Meeting #7, Project Selection and Goal-Setting

Number of committee members in attendance: 5

Names of people in attendance: Myrna Jorgensen, Holbrook Schutjer, Karen Robertson, Bonnie Eustice, Brad Mayer; Craig Ritland and Samantha Price (landscape architects), Jake Spitz (I.S.U. intern), Meredith Borchardt (Trees Forever)

Meeting Summary:

This morning's meeting began with a quick refresher on the overall Visioning process. We are now at about the halfway point, in terms of number of meetings and time to completion. The primary goal today is for the committee to identify areas in the community and define specific problems, projects, and outcomes in those areas that the design team can address in their work the summer. Many ideas have been voiced so far in Visioning meetings; they were grouped into six broad categories and printed on a large poster. We talked through those projects, and then committee members voted on the broad categories that they felt were the highest priorities (blue circle stickers for 1st priority, red for 2nd, and yellow for 3rd). We then spent a little more time talking through each of the six areas, and revising the bullets under each. The following is the list of projects, prioritized from highest to lowest:

Signage

- Improve entryway signage on north and south entrances – incorporate existing stone pillars but redo sign, possibly with limestone from local quarry; redo sign with town groups & clubs
- Wayfinding signage – develop ideas for a uniform system of signage to help visitors find amenities in town such as school, trail, Angel Park, Children's Garden, pool, etc.
- Incorporate town or school logo

Parks

- Improve Clausen Park – address storm water runoff issues that affect mulch base for play equipment; address parking and truck traffic on north side of park
- Angel Park –make more visible to the public, increase use, add trees and landscaping, incorporate educational signage re: storm water issues

Trails

- Add lighting and landscaping to walking trail, needs to be low-maintenance
- Create a map that shows possible connections to Hamlin Garland, Halverson Park, golf course
- Add Share the Road signs where appropriate, such as Old Mill Road

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4th Street/ Downtown

- Discuss strategies for improving health and lifespan of downtown trees
- Flags along 4th Street – make them permanent or displayed more frequently

Pedestrian Connections

- Improve existing crosswalks on South Main and 4th Street/downtown
- Improve pedestrian routes to schools/trail/pool

Storm water Issues

- Managing storm water is a big challenge for the community; compile information on issues that help address storm water runoff

We talked about Thursday's design workshop at the Rescue Building. Committee members are encouraged to reach out to friends, family, neighbors, etc. in the community to invite them to attend during the day (between 10:00 and 5:00) and also at 5:30 for a presentation of the day's work. Bonnie's family will bring some water and lemonade; Myrna will be there about 9:30 to open the building for set up. Fliers have been posted, an article ran in the local paper, and something posted on the Chamber's Facebook page. Meeting adjourned about 9:30.

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Community: St. Ansgar
Minutes by Trees Forever Field Coordinator: Meredith Borchardt
Date and Time: Thursday, June 9, 2016, 10:00 am
Meeting Length: 8.5 hours
Location: St. Ansgar Rescue Building
Meeting #8, Design Workshop

Number of committee members in attendance: 6

Number of community members in attendance: ~20

Names of committee members in attendance: Myrna Jorgensen, Karen Robertson, Bonnie Eustice, Daria Jorgensen, Barb Groth, Devin Schwiesow; Craig Ritland and Samantha Price (landscape architects), Jake Spitz (I.S.U. intern), Meredith Borchardt (Trees Forever)

Meeting Summary:

The design workshop was held at the Rescue Building from 10:00 – 5:00, with a wrap up presentation of the day's work at 5:30. About 25 people stopped in during the day, and several brought new input into the process. There was good media coverage-including reporters from KIMT TV (link to KIMT TV coverage: <http://kimt.com/2016/06/09/community-members-re-design-their-city/>), the Mitchell County Press News, and the Saint Ansgar Enterprise Journal. The following is the list of projects, prioritized by the committee from highest to lowest, that was posted near the entrance to the building. Additional input added during the day is indicated with blue text:

Signage

- Improve entryway signage on north and south entrances – incorporate existing stone pillars but redo sign, possibly with limestone from local quarry; redo sign with town groups & clubs
- Wayfinding signage – develop ideas for a uniform system of signage to help visitors find amenities in town such as school, trail, Angel Park, Children's Garden, pool, etc.; [clarify name of park - one sign says City Park and another says Clausen Park; people liked "Clausen City Park"](#)
- Incorporate town or school logo – [there are two different school logos and mixed opinions on which is better; concepts will present a couple different options](#)

Parks

- Improve Clausen Park – address storm water runoff issues that affect mulch base for play equipment; address parking and truck traffic on north side of park- [additional sidewalks needed to improve handicap accessibility](#)
- Angel Park –make more visible to the public, increase use, add trees and landscaping, incorporate educational signage re: storm water issues –[additional sidewalks needed to improve handicap accessibility; also suggestion to add a perimeter paved trail](#)

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Trails

- Add lighting and landscaping to walking trail, needs to be low-maintenance – the cross country team runs on the grass along the trail and are in need of additional mowed grass trails in town that do not require transportation to get to for practicing; there is a desire for more benches along the trail and a water fountain; a baseball practice area and prairie area will go in along the trail near the ball field; a walking arboretum is being developed; a bench and two apple trees will soon go in near the SW corner of the trail; a group is working on adding fitness stations along the trail
- Create a map that shows possible connections to Hamlin Garland, Halverson Park, golf course
- Add Share the Road signs where appropriate, such as Old Mill Road

4th Street/ Downtown

- Discuss strategies for improving health and lifespan of downtown trees
- Flags along 4th Street – make them permanent or displayed more frequently – a community volunteer who attended the Transportation Assets and Barriers workshop and voiced this idea has already talked with the Legion who is supportive of the idea and moving ahead on it

Pedestrian Connections

- Improve existing crosswalks on South Main and 4th Street/downtown
- Improve pedestrian routes to schools/trail/pool

Storm water Issues

- Managing storm water is a big challenge for the community; compile information on issues that help address storm water runoff

About ten people attended the wrap up presentation. It was emphasized that Visioning will provide conceptual level plans –not detailed construction documents. Some communities choose to build/implement a project exactly as shown on a concept plan, while others choose to use them as general guides but do not implement them exactly as they are shown. The concept plans will be in the form of digital pictures that have been edited or sketches. The design team presented the following works in progress:

- Entryway signs – digital picture image edits showed ideas for utilizing the existing stone pillars, adding new stone between them, and adding a backdrop of evergreen trees. Three of the four signs are on private property and any changes to the signs or landscaping will need to be discussed with those individuals
- Way-finding signs – digital picture image edits showed ideas for using different logs and different colors to create a uniform system of signs along the 4th Street and Main Street to help visitors find destinations such as parks, pool, school, walking trail, etc.

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- Clausen Park –sketches helped illustrate using pea gravel as a base for play equipment, held in place with a limestone ledging retaining wall. Both of these materials would allow water to move through them. Currently a berm holds water in the area with playground equipment and the mulch washes away. Another idea is to use boulders in a natural sand play area for kids. A final feature is to add sidewalks for better accessibility to restrooms, shelter and gazebo; someone mentioned how difficult it currently is to get wheelchairs through the park.
- Angel Park –a sketch included a perimeter trail, the addition of street trees in the front, and sidewalk connection to the restroom
- Walking Trail –a sketch included several things discussed including fitness stations, additional shade trees, practice baseball area, prairie area, solar lighting, and walking arboretum. An image edit showed the addition of shade trees as a backdrop immediately behind the bench and trailhead area, and another showed lighting along the trail.
- Pedestrian connections- image edits showed improved crosswalks which could be used at South Main and 4th Street/downtown, diagonal crossing at 8th Street and School Street, and painted symbol on sidewalk showing route to school

The next step in the process will be for the committee to do a preliminary review of concepts in July. Then the project ideas will be finalized and presented to the public in August or September on a date to be determined. Meeting adjourned about 6:30.