

Community: St. Ansgar
Minutes by Trees Forever Field Coordinator: Meredith Borchardt
Date and Time: Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 6:30 pm
Meeting Length: 1.5 hours
Location: St. Ansgar City Hall
Meeting #3, Planning for Transportation Assets and Barriers

Number of committee members in attendance: 8

Names of committee members in attendance: Bonnie Eustice, Barb Groth, Myrna Jorgensen, Daria Jorgensen, Tara Kramer, Karen Robertson, Devin Schwiesow, Brad Mayer

Meeting Summary:

Prior to the meeting, Meredith and Myrna looked at the meeting space in the First Lutheran Church Parish Hall, location of the Transportation Assets and Barriers (TAB) workshop on April 9. There is a very large open room and two smaller meeting rooms; the facility should work well for this event.

The committee meeting started with a power point overview of the TAB workshop. This is a public input session, and an opportunity to gather opinions from a variety of demographic groups in the community that will provide background information for the design team. There are two parts for participants- a facilitated discussion using aerial maps to talk about how people use the local transportation system, followed by a brief training on using digital cameras. Participants then will have about 45 minutes to take photos in town of things that were discussed.

The demographic groups and people on the committee who will work on recruiting participants are seniors (Karen and Barb), youth (Tara, Devin, and Daria), parents (Brad), and active recreationists (Myrna). Steering committee members are asked to come at their designated time (1:00) rather than fit into other demographic groups. We finalized this schedule:

9:00 – 11:00 – seniors
10:00 – 12:00- parents and youth
11:00-1:00 – active recreationists
1:00-3:00 –steering committee
3:30 –wrap up

The committee decided to have coffee, water, and lemonade available for participants. Myrna will be present and be a familiar face to participants to welcome people. A group of ISU staff and interns will be working on several different tasks throughout the day; the committee will provide sandwiches for them for lunch. As participants arrive they will need to sign an informed consent form; Meredith passed around an example of one that parents must sign for youth who will not have a parent present that day. For the majority of participants, they can just sign the consent forms when they arrive that day. The consent forms are necessary because the workshop is

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considered a research project, and Iowa State University has protocol that must be followed when people are involved with research.

Finally, we talked about some tools available to promote participation in the event. They include a press release, flier and handout. The handout has a portion that can be cut off and given to people to remind them of the time that their group is scheduled; the top part can be kept by committee members to track people they have recruited. Myrna will be the collector of information on all participants for the different groups.

Building on the last meeting, we continued a discussion on benefits of using native plants. Tonight we focused on some of the above ground benefits, particularly related to providing pollinator habitat and helping with snow drafting.

Finally, we did some planning for upcoming meetings in May. There will be two separate meetings on the same day. In the afternoon a transportation meeting will be held to talk through the projects with local transportation officials and gather information on upcoming road projects, long range transportation plans, regulations, and funding opportunities that could impact Visioning projects. It will involve just a few committee members, Meredith, the design team, and staff from the Iowa D.O.T. district planning office, county engineer, and Council of Governments (NIACOG). That evening the committee will meet with Meredith and the design team. At that meeting we will review all of the assessment information gathered to date, and then set goals for the design teams' work on developing the project ideas. Dates being considered include May 3 and 17. Meeting adjourned about 7:50.