

Community: Stuart

Minutes by Trees Forever Field Coordinator: Leslie Berckes

Date and Time: February 9, 2016; 5:30pm

Meeting Length: 1.5 hrs

Location: Depot

Bioregional and TAB Planning Meeting

Number of community members in attendance: 5

Visioning Committee Members Attending: Kristen Renslow, Terri Hommer, Mike Morgan, Jenyse Belden, Lynsi Pasutti
Leslie Berckes (Trees Forever)

Summary:

The Stuart Community Visioning Steering Committee meeting began with a brainstorming session of potential projects for the community. This list is to get a better sense of the community needs prior to going into the community assessment process. The ideas generated will be compared to the feedback received during the Transportation Assets and Barriers process and reviewed at the Goal Setting meeting with the landscape architects. Potential project ideas include:

- Safe routes to school
- Pocket park downtown
- Flow from interstate to downtown and vice versa
- More vegetation around town
- An entrance feature
- Directional signage
- Sidewalks – specifically on the south side of town and to the “interstate compound”
- Truck route – something closer to town, but not through town?
- More walking trails and connection to the current trail
- Address soccer field congestion – sports complex?

Next, the committee reviewed the Transportation Assets and Barriers meeting set for April 2. Leslie provided a short presentation on why TAB is important in the Visioning process, what community groups will be involved, and a snapshot of what community members will experience the day of the workshop.

The goal of this phase of Community Visioning is to get a broad representation of community members to better understand their needs in the community. This will be accomplished by inviting people who represent different demographics: seniors, active adult recreation users, and parents and children. Members of the steering committee will also participate in the process. To begin, each group will start indoors at West Central Valley High School. This will serve as a time for the participants to point out specific assets and barriers in the community related to transportation. The individual will then go outside with a camera enabled with GPS to take pictures of the areas they talked about during the indoor session. The breakdown of day is as follows; a steering committee member will be in attendance at each session to welcome the participants.

Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning 2016

Group 1: Seniors, 9-11am

Group 2: Active Rec Users, 10am-12pm

Group 3: Parents and children, 12:30-2:30pm

Group 4: Steering Committee, 1:30-3:30pm

The steering committee was provided a recruitment sheet to start the recruitment process. At the next meeting in March, the committee will confirm who they have contacted already and make plans for reaching a broader audience. The committee should send names of those who have committed to Kristen.

Next, the group reviewed the Bioregional maps that were produced by Iowa State for Stuart. Leslie gave a brief introduction to the process and how bioregional patterns effected settlement and how it continues to effect development. The maps were grouped together at three different stations. The steering committee spent time looking at the maps and answering the questions that were at each station. The maps that were produced include the following along with the questions asked.

- **Historic Vegetation**
- **Present Day Land Cover**
- **Settlement Patterns**
 - What natural/environmental features affected the settlement of the community?
 - Are there family names on the map that are interesting to you? Why?
 - Are there examples of historic vegetation still existing in town?
 - Have other plants been introduced that negatively affect the native species? Are there native remnant areas, or places that have been planted with natives?
 - What do you notice?
- **Tree Inventory**
 - Does Stuart have a diverse urban forest?
 - Where are a majority of the trees in the community planted?
 - Are there current efforts to plant trees in the urban forest?
 - After looking at the other bioregional maps, do you think there are certain things to keep in mind when planting trees in Stuart?
 - What do you notice?
- **Watershed**
- **Depth to Ground Water**
- **Elevation**
 - What watershed do you live in?
 - Where are areas that puddle during a rain event?
 - Where does the rainwater flow (To storm sewers? To streams?)
 - What activities are having an impact on water quality?
 - Are there areas with a high water table or low water table that surprise you? Why?
 - What do you notice?

Leslie will send out a Doodle poll to schedule the March meeting and the group will meet at the Fire Hall instead of the Depot.