

## Think Tank IV: July 22, 2014

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Facilities (buildings) and Services (medical, seniors, children, others?)
Topic/Ideas:
<p>Community Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has a strong committee in the Hawkeye Community Club – as we look to the future, need to ensure that new people are brought onto the committee (a member succession plan)</li> <li>• Discussion about the future needs included general maintenance and potential larger facility for weddings and other events</li> <li>• Discussion about where a new facility could be located since adding on to the existing building is not an option: Nice to have downtown, helps the town look vibrant when something is going on there, but is there enough parking downtown? Would the hatchery/LLL space (with the alley space too) work at some time in the future?</li> <li>• This idea needs to start with a feasibility study – is a larger facility really needed? Would it be financially viable? What would happen to the existing facility?</li> </ul>
<p>Library</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the property behind the library were ever available, it would be a great place to put an outdoor reading garden</li> </ul>
<p>Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a strong and committed Park Board</li> <li>• Would like to add 5-6 electrical hookups for campsites</li> <li>• In the long term, would like to acquire some section of the field to the east of Hauth Park for additional trails, more campsites, etc.</li> <li>• It would be a great addition to the park to have a splashpad or sprayground for children to play in during the summer.</li> </ul>
<p>Fitness (Recreation) Center - proposed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey showed an interest in fitness opportunities for community members</li> <li>• Maybe just an instructor in the park?</li> <li>• The fire department has access to fitness equipment at a lower cost. Could the department purchase equipment and allow the public to use it too? This has logistical issues that would need to be worked out</li> <li>• An outdoor fitness trail (along the trail in the park) could be developed with simple exercise stations along the way – or with outdoor fitness equipment stations along the way.</li> </ul>
<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion about the potential use of the school building for a few of these ideas – as community center, fitness (recreation) center, additional park area</li> <li>• It would be nice to expand the walking trail to connect the park to the downtown</li> </ul>

Infrastructure: Concrete/Pavement & Pipes

Topic/Ideas:

Water Main Looping:

- Should solve issues that were identified on the survey by promoting the movement of water throughout the system
- Have 5-6 deadends, and are currently working on looping all but two of them through a grant received. Should be completed by next spring. 2 will need to be taken care of later

Streets/Sewer/Water:

- Sewer and water pipes date back to the early 1900's
- Some Orangeburg pipe still remains – but on the homeowner's side of the system
- The three streets that would have the most impact and need street/sewer/water (and sidewalk) replacements would be Main, Burger and Wilbur

Stormwater System:

- Over time, the drainage ditch through town has become less efficient at funneling/controlling water runoff through town
- The city is working to correct some of the issues right now (clearing debris, etc.)
- Underground drainage has worked well in some areas. The community could consider other areas for this type of upgrade
- Curb and gutter would be helpful too – as well as give the community a “neat” look
- A first step should be to take a good look at the system as a whole and develop a plan (with priority areas identified and a timeline) to address the system – this will avoid piecemeal projects that could just end up sending the problem elsewhere in the community.

Sidewalks:

- Survey feedback and the rating done as part of the planning process indicate a need for something to be done to address both gaps and the condition of existing sidewalks
- Ordinances need to be updated to ensure that:
  - Residents who tear out sidewalks must be required to put them back in
  - Develop standards that define the acceptable conditions for sidewalks
  - If not already included, state that sidewalks must be maintained to those standards
- Other ideas for prompting homeowner repairs included marking hazardous areas on sidewalks with paint, doing neighborhood walk-arounds with residents to discuss areas with hazardous conditions or even gaps

Other:

- Consider bringing back the drinking fountain

## Utilities: Gas/Electric/Communications

### Topic/Ideas:

#### Utilities

- Surveys showed high satisfaction with existing services
- Before any new development, reevaluate the capacity of the natural gas service into town (this may have been addressed already, but attendees recalled a comment about only being able to serve 7 more homes)
- As budgets become tight, explore the option of a city-owned electric utility. Review the franchise agreement and check into the financial feasibility of such an undertaking
- As new areas for development are identified, ensure that utility infrastructure is available, and if not, understand the costs involved to bring it in

## Other Items

#### Zoning

- A tool to protect the character of the community
- Is it appropriate for Hawkeye?
- A first step will be to invite an expert in zoning (Gary Taylor from IA State) to speak about the benefits and procedures for developing zoning. This will help the city determine whether zoning is something they need, and if so, how to go about it.
- As new areas for development are identified, ensure that utility infrastructure is available, and if not, understand the costs involved to bring it in

#### Future Land Use

- The field east of Hauth Park has a section to the north that would be appropriate for a residential lot
- Land on the west side of Peters St. would be a logical place for additional residential development and may already be platted

### Attendees, Think Tank IV:

Garry Birth

Mark Creery\*

Nancy Creery

Leon Dietzenbach\*

John Fels

Don Kelly

Dana Leitzman

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