

Think Tank III: July 16, 2014

Transportation	
Challenges?	Opportunities?
Cost of public transit	Enforce shoveling rules
Convenience of public transit	Set up a neighbors-helping-neighbors system to get shoveling taken care of for elderly or others who may need help (shovel-buddies)
Sidewalk maintenance (in summer and winter)	Safety education (reflectivity, clothing...)
Sidewalk gaps (where no sidewalks exist)	Find out the town's need for public transit
Downtown curb height	Enforce loose pet ordinance – this is working, more education is needed
Nighttime walkers – don't wear appropriate clothing (reflective, light-colored clothing, lights...)	Golf cart allowed on streets
Loose dogs	Better directional signage on Hwy 18 (ask DOT about this)
Wilbur Street – large vehicles, vehicles exceeding the speed limits, sidewalks missing or in disrepair (or icy/snow-covered) sends walkers to the streets	"Mark" sidewalk issues that need repair (follow up with a letter to property owners)

Housing	
Challenges?	Opportunities?
Building Spec Homes (investors afraid, but buyers don't want to build)	Acquire "abandoned" properties
Cluttered yards	Fire Department/Homeowner – agree to use demolition of home for training
	Develop a housing inventory
	Build a spec home

Ideas for Transportation:
Idea:
Check the signage at Main and Peters – does it need fixing or replacement?
Make sure there are enough "children playing" signs around town
Form a group to host an educational event about safe walking at night. Perhaps sell/giveaway reflective items, lights, etc. at the event so that people can be safe right away!
Get information out to community members about the availability of public transit
Enforce sidewalk ordinances (equitably)
Develop a fun fundraiser for a matching pool of money for making sidewalk repairs (to help those who might not be able to afford it all on their own). Talked about tying it into Halloween (when the sidewalks are being used).
Host a bike rodeo
Consider some painted bike lanes
Review posted speed limits in town, there are some abrupt speed changes that can be missed
Form a task force to research options for slowing traffic on Wilbur Street
Look into the cost of flashing speed limit signs
When Wilbur Street is resurfaced, consider making it wider to add room for pedestrians

Ideas for Housing
Idea:
For houses that need exterior work (like painting, caulking...) – organize a community clean-up/project day/Paint-a-thon, etc. Utilized 4-H, boy scouts, etc.
Build a spec home – reform the private investment group, “invest in their community” in an amount sufficient to be a down payment, work with local lender to carry the rest of the loan, see if in-kind work can be provided to the builder to reduce costs, sell home when built, pay off loan, reinvest again...
Explore the feasibility of assisted living (how would that look: new facility, remodeling an existing building, maybe just provide assisted living services to folks in their homes?)
Contact property owners whose properties appear “abandoned” – develop a toolkit of options that will encourage/support owners in taking care of the properties (whether tear down/fix up, sell, etc.)
Market Hawkeye to areas/communities where housing is an issue

Attendees, Think Tank III:

Garry Birth
Irene Elsbernd
Don Kelly
Dana Leitzman
Jeff Rhode*
Wayne Schroeder
Dorty Yauslin*

*Steering Committee Member