

Think Tank I: July 1, 2014

Community Culture and Character	
Challenges?	Opportunities?
Fear of commitment	Some things could pay for themselves
Finding the “who” (and who will supervise the “who”)	Can we develop creative teams for ballgames
Does the city need more staff (e.g. park/rec?)	Can we share/rent the ball equipment that the city currently owns
Funding	Welcome the Mennonite Community to “our” community
Reaching out to citizens	Can we organize co-ed adult softball – as a once-in-while activity just for fun?
Losing the elementary school	Can we utilize the school building for community activities?
Shrinking youth population	Welcome packages for newcomers
Communication with the Mennonite Community	Could the “who” be: high school students (capstone projects, community service – visit with Bill Clark), confirmation students, college interns. Could they be provided a small stipend or scholarship?
Getting people to use the ballfields	More engagement from City Council members and other city leaders
	Welcome Wagon
	Could businesses “sponsor” (or host) a ball practice or clinic?

Community Culture & Character IDEAS!	
Idea:	Group Score:
Develop a list of potential volunteers	2
Develop a list of volunteer opportunities (one-time, short-term, long-term)	1
Organize ball clinics	1
Develop a community newsletter (or Hawkeye “section” in the newspaper, or monthly newspaper insert)	4
Develop a city website	7
Develop a community TV station	2
Create a welcome basket	4
Develop a business directory	0
Identify a committee to organize community events	0
Encourage ALL existing community groups to work toward common goals	7
Host neighborhood block parties (join National Night Out?)	3
Farmers Market	0
Develop a community bulletin board (for projects and events – located in library maybe?)	0
Give volunteer awards	0
Host an appreciation potluck (where awards could be presented)	2
Install informational signage on highway 18	0

Natural and Agricultural Resources	
Challenges?	Opportunities?
Funding	Black Hills and Alliant Energy grants for upgrades in town
Public perception	Landscaping at new co-op cleared area
“Who”	Gouldsburg Park is close by
Communicating with landowners about ideas, making changes to land	
Drainage, water	

Natural and Agricultural Resources – IDEAS!	
Idea:	Group Score:
Work with DNR to get the Turkey stocked with trout at Gouldsburg	1
Pond or campsites at town park	2
Enhance prairie on way to Hwy 18 (John Steege?)	5
Improve “dry run” drainage	6
Install curb and gutter on streets	1
Develop a cost-sharing program for tree planting	6
Contact FFC about landscaping and sign in newly cleared area	2
Organize continuing education regarding agricultural and horticultural topics	0
Enforce city ordinances to improve existing “first impression” of Hawkeye	4
Support farmers market	2
Develop city incentives for future building and beautifying	4
Coordinate a Meet-n-greet question/answer session for retirees (a whole community open house)	0

Attendees, Think Tank I:

Garry Birth
 Mark Creery*
 Nancy Creery
 Carrie Davis
 Leon Dietzenbach*
 Irene Elsbernd
 Dana Leitzman
 Jeff Rhodes*
 Wayne Schroeder
 Angie Weidemann*
 Dorthy Yauslin*

*Steering Committee Member