

ImPERUving as oNE  
Meeting Notes  
May 22, 2020  
Meeting by ZOOM @ 9:00 a.m.

Present: Dan Hanson, Vanessa Sherman, Tim Hoffman, Cindy Hoffman

Also Present: Marilyn Schlake & Charlotte Varjes (UNL Extension), Amy Mincer

- 1) **Review of April 17 meeting notes** – In a review of the prior meeting notes, items listed in red font should be addressed during the discussion today.
  
- 2) **Long-Term Recovery Group update** – Dr. Hanson reviewed that the LTRG is working on flood recovery/funding concerns for Peru. The group is getting helpful guidance from several entities, including the Nebraska Dept. of Economic Development, the Nebraska Children & Families Foundation, the Nebraska Community Foundation and recently the Sarpy County Long Term Recovery Group. Some of the projects the LTRG is currently addressing:
  - **Staff Person** – The LTRG is submitting a grant application (to Daugherty & Kiewit Foundations) for funding to support a one-year staff position. This person will be a City employee and will work full-time to pursue funding sources that will help Peru in its flood recovery efforts. Once the grant application is submitted and the position description finalized, the LTRG will begin a search for the right person to fill this role.
  - **Fiscal Sponsor** – The group is working with Janny Crotty at the Nebraska Community Foundation. The NCF has agreed to provide fiscal sponsorship through its Nemaha County Affiliated Fund.
  - **Levee Repair** – The most exciting news related to the levee comes from Congressman Adrian Smith’s office. He has proposed wording for the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bill which, if included, would support the Peru levee repair.
  - **Water Solution** – The City is discussing connecting to either Nebraska City or Auburn water. Auburn is a much more affordable opportunity. Connecting to another city’s water source would be a much faster process than building a new system in Peru.
  - **Wastewater Solution** – The City is still waiting to learn what the State will require for the level of protection on the treatment system. The range for repair cost is \$2-10 million. A local farmer may be able to provide a “farmer fix” to protect the lagoons, which would be much more affordable.
  - **Street Repairs** – The City is applying for approximately \$4 million in EDA grant funding to help with road repairs, including sidewalks and lighting.
  - **Hazard Mitigation Buyout** – Through this program, flood-damaged homes will be purchased from the homeowners, following which the homes will be removed and the area cleaned up.
  
- 3) **Community Survey on Grocery Store** – Marilyn Schlake and Charlotte Narjes provided a survey draft for all to review. The community survey includes grocery store questions as well as follow-up research questions for the UNL Extension team. Group discussion included feedback on certain text and various ideas about co-op ownership/involvement. In addition, should there be a call to action? The project needs people who can invest and make decisions, not just keep talking about it. It would be best to have interested community members submit their contact information with their survey responses.

Marilyn and Charlotte will update the survey and have it ready for proofing by June 1. They will include the list of imPERUing as oNE members and list Amy Mincer as the contact person ([amincer@peru.edu](mailto:amincer@peru.edu) or 402.872.2239). They will also include the link to the community web page ([www.perunebraska.org](http://www.perunebraska.org)).

Another focus of discussion was survey distribution – would a summer date be possible or would it be best to wait until school is back in session? Perhaps waiting would be beneficial. Dr. Hanson would like to see the Deckers and Mayor Pease notified ahead of time. He also suggested that the group who met in February to discuss grocery store options should receive a communication about the survey.

Marilyn announced that the Extension office is waiting on approval of a grant request for funding that could benefit the Peru grocery store project.

**4) Planning Team Reports –**

**A) Infrastructure** – See above “Long-Term Recovery Group update”. In addition, the City has received a \$500,000 housing grant and the implementation is in process.

**B) Housing** – No update.

**C) Attraction, Retention & Communication (ARC)** – No update.

**D) Business/Economic Development (B.E.D.)** – Dr. Hanson reported that the grocery store project will be the present focus of this planning team.

**5) Next Meeting:** Next meeting will be June 19, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. at Peru City Hall or on ZOOM (Normally the third Friday of the month).