

ImPERUing as oNE
Meeting Notes
July 19, 2019
City Hall @ 9:15 a.m.

Present: Justin Douglas, Dan Hanson, by phone: Tim & Cindy Hoffman

Also Present: Amy Mincer

- 1) **Review Mission and Vision statements** – Reminder to review these as guidance for the Committee.
- 2) **Review on June 21 meeting notes** – Dr. Hanson briefly reviewed the notes including revisiting the discussion about the City's parking concerns. There are rental homes in town without ample parking for their tenants. This issue has been addressed at several City Council meetings. **Tim & Cindy Hoffman agreed to contact Peru landlords who need to add parking spaces for their tenants.** They can work as a go-between with the landlords and the City.
- 3) **Flood Response Discussion** – Dr. Hanson led discussion on the following:
 - A) **Peru Water Supply** – The portable plant that was installed is not going to work adequately so they are bringing a different model and hope to have it running soon. There may still be lawn-watering restrictions, but this should provide a solid temporary solution. JEO has gathered information to inform the long-term solution decision. This on-going discussion includes the options of opting for Rural Water through Auburn or drilling a new well in Peru, outside of the flood plain. FEMA will help with funding a long-term water solution for Peru as long as they endorse the plan. The City of Peru may not make a final decision on this permanent solution until later this fall. **The next water meeting is scheduled for July 29.** They are planning to request some test drilling to examine the possibility of keeping the water plant in Peru. Note: Peru's wastewater treatment is also a concern and JEO will be looking into this challenge to offer solution options.
 - B) **Peru Levee** – Dr. Hanson reported that the levee board has been working towards getting the levee up to code. Because it is not up to code, the Army Corps of Engineers will not repair the levee. FEMA does not assist with federal levees either. Therefore, Senator Slama and the levee board will be working to develop a case statement to show the negative impact on the community if the levee is not repaired. They would plan to present the case statement to Congressman Smith in an effort to obtain federal funding for the levee repair, which could be a several-year project.
 - C) **Role of ImPERUing as oNE** – Dr. Hanson met with Jason Jones who asked if this group might serve as a communication tool on behalf of the City. Peru residents would benefit from regular updates about the water supply/levee progress. **Dr. Hanson will meet often with Mayor Reeves for updates and can gather the information that would be most helpful for citizens to know. His office would then pass the information to the City Office for posting on the City Facebook page. It can also be posted on perunebraska.org and paper copies can be available in town for those with no computer access.**
- 4) **SEND D Resource Report** – Dr. Hanson reviewed the SEND D notes from the previous meeting. He reported that the Peru State College Foundation has received a \$25,000 donation to serve as the match for the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

- 5) **Planning Team Reports** – Each team reported updates:
- A) **Infrastructure** – Dr. Hanson reported on behalf of Darrin Reeves and Jason Jones. It has been suggested that another City Council member replace Darrin Reeves on the ImPERUing as ONE committee in order to free him up to deal with other City concerns.
 - B) **Housing** – Tim Hoffman reported continued difficulty in getting community members engaged with this team until the water issues are resolved.
 - C) **Attraction, Retention & Communication (ARC)** – No one was present to report today. Dr. Hanson noted that Vanessa Sherman reported to the City Council on Monday evening. The ARC team has developed a community resource list and they intend to distribute it to students and parents who will be arriving for fall semester.
 - D) **Economic/Business Development (B.E.D.)** – Dr. Hanson reported that this team is continuing to meet and all four downtown businesses have been represented. He is having ongoing conversation with Decker’s and Zach’s to help improve relationships between the businesses and students.
- 6) **Next Meeting:** August 16 at 9:00 a.m. at Peru City Hall.