

ImPERUving as oNE
Meeting Notes
Aug. 16, 2019
City Hall @ 9:00 a.m.

Present: Justin Douglas, Becca Jewell, Vanessa Sherman, Dan Hanson, by phone: Tim Hoffman

Also Present: Amy Mincer

- 1) **Review Mission and Vision statements** – Reminder to review these as guidance for the Committee.
- 2) **Review on July 17 meeting notes** – No comments on these notes.
- 3) **Flood Response Discussion** – Dr. Hanson led discussion on the following:
 - A) **Role of ImPERUving as oNE** –
 - Flood Response Reports - Dr. Hanson reported that Mayor Reeves is pleased to have this group's assistance in drafting and distributing the weekly Flood Response Reports. These reports are being posted on the City's Facebook page and on the perunebraska.org website. Amy is also sending the report to College personnel and distributing paper copies at several locations downtown and at Casey's.
 - Funding Applications – Dr. Hanson emphasized an additional role of the committee to locate and help obtain funding for flood recovery and housing improvements in Peru. **He will talk with Mayor Reeves about specific funding needs for Peru.** Dr. Hanson reminded all that the State will help the City with SRF funds that will help until FEMA and NEMA monies arrive. These funds are interest-free and may be used on approved operational expenses. The group also discussed making application for grants through Nebraska Farm Bureau and the Nebraska Banker's Association.
 - B) **Peru Levee** – Dr. Hanson reviewed that since the Peru levee did not meet code prior to the flood, the Corps of Engineers will not repair it. The City is therefore pursuing other funding sources to repair approximately six miles of broken levee. This project is expected to take years to complete. **Dr. Hanson will be attending a meeting to discuss levee repair funding with staff members from Senator Sasse's office at City Hall on Monday, Aug. 19.**
 - C) **Peru Water Supply** – The portable water unit is working and the boil order has been lifted. Now the need is to clarify that the unit will meet the supply needs of the City at peak usage times. The Peru City Council held a special water meeting on July 29. They are currently considering three long-term solutions to Peru's water challenges:
 - Finding new water – JEO has been tasked with performing test drills to look for water sources that could be used for Peru. This process will take until March or April to complete.
 - Connecting to Rural Water – JEO is also exploring this option for the City.
 - Connecting to Auburn waterInformation is being gathered on all options in order to make the best decision for the City.
- 4) **SEND D Resource Report** – Becca Jewell reported that the City did submit a grant request through SEND D for housing improvement funds. She has been asked (and accepted) to represent Peru State College on the SEND D Board of Directors. The first meeting will be in September and she will serve a

two-year term. Becca also reported that she and Dr. Hanson met last Friday with the Nebraska Community Foundation to discuss resources that are available to help with flood recovery efforts and housing needs. Peru could apply for assistance through three funds they identified.

5) Planning Team Reports – Each team reported updates:

A) Infrastructure – See “Peru Water Supply” above.

B) Housing – Tim Hoffman reported that they have talked with other landlords in Peru about parking concerns. These property owners do not seem to be having parking issues, so the **Housing team will check with the City to see which properties have been identified as needing additional parking for tenants.** Amy Mincer noted that the overflow lots on campus (including the gravel lot north of the Oak Bowl) are available for parking 24/7 to those with parking permits. Students can get parking permits without additional cost to them. They just need to complete the necessary paperwork with the Security Department.

C) Attraction, Retention & Communication (ARC) – Becca Jewell announced that the ARC planning team has met their two short-term goals they had set for move-in day:

- Magnets – These have been printed and will be distributed to new students and Peru residents. They will also leave some at the City Office. The magnets advertise websites and services and will hopefully drive people to the websites for more information.
- Online Resource Guide – Vanessa has posted this resource list on www.perunebraska.org. It includes many local and county resources with links to websites.

D) Economic/Business Development (B.E.D.) – This planning team met on Tuesday this week. It was a small group, with only Rob Walker and Dan Hanson present. Dr. Hanson reported that four local spaces have been offered for a student-run coffee shop. **Becca suggested that a good next-step would be having the students visit these locations.**

There was additional group discussion about the old “mini mart” location in town. Vanessa Sherman reported there has been a suggestion for the owner to rent storage units on the site.

6) Next Meeting: Sept. 20 at 9:00 a.m. at Peru City Hall.