

ImPERUving as oNE
Meeting Notes
August 21, 2020
Meeting by ZOOM @ 9:00 a.m.

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

Also Present: Marilyn Schlake & Charlotte Narjes (UNL Extension), Hope & Quentin Kieler, Amy Mincer

Dr. Hanson asked all for their introductions to Hope & Quentin Kieler who joined the meeting today due to their interest in the future of the grocery store. He reviewed this group's history for the Kielers and noted the unique challenges that appeared due to the 2019 flood. Those challenges have affected the progress of the group, with the hope of getting back to the original focus soon.

- 1) **Review of June 19 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 the progress of the LTRG, which is working on flood recovery/funding concerns for Peru. The group is receiving support from representatives of several outside organizations (Nebraska Community Foundation, Nebraska Children & Families Foundation, NEMA, NDED). Some of the projects which the LTRG is currently supporting the City:
 - **Staff Person** – The group has received a grant to hire a full-time Disaster Recovery Coordinator (DRC). This will be a 12-month position and hopefully will be staffed in the very near future. The DRC will be a great help in pursuing funding to assist with Peru's infrastructure repairs listed here.
 - **Levee Repair** – Senator Julie Slama worked with Congressman Adrian Smith who was successful in getting some wording additions to the federal WRDA (Water Resources Development Act) bill. With this new wording, the Peru levee will now qualify for repairs by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This is great news!
 - **Water Solution** – The City has recently learned they can fast-track this process with FEMA which will help tremendously in getting 75% of the funding for a permanent water solution. The City has recently applied for additional funding through the DNR's Water Sustainability Fund.
 - **Wastewater Solution** – The City is waiting to hear the final requirement for these repairs.
 - **Street Repairs** – The City has applied for CDBG funding to help with a much needed street repair project.
 - **CDBG/DED** – The City has applied for HUD funding through the DED which would help with match funding for key flood recovery projects in Peru. Dr. Hanson reported that there has been good progress in connections with the DED which is leading to support for Peru, not just for flood recovery but for other economic development opportunities. This is exciting news.

- 3) **Grocery Store follow-up/survey distribution** – Marilyn Schlake reviewed the prior community survey results, noting the interest in the future of the grocery store. The follow-up survey is ready to go and will be officially open Sept. 15-Oct. 1. The community will be able to give feedback that will help with planning for the store (i.e., amenities, etc.). Marilyn and Charlotte are happy to continue working with the grocery store effort. They can help with connections to resources for this project. Charlotte noted there are CDBG funds for grocery stores. Vanessa suggested having some of the

grocery store group meet with Hope and Quentin for discussions. **Dr. Hanson, Amy, and Vanessa will arrange a meeting.**

Justin Douglas reported that Louisville has a newer grocery store and would be a good place to research. **Vanessa suggested there could be other “field trips” to pursue.**

Marilyn sent the final version of the survey to the group this morning and Amy Mincer forwarded that to Hope and Quentin. **Vanessa Sherman will post the survey information on the City web page.** An announcement has gone out to City residents in their water bill. Tim reminded all that the original survey was announced with a post card mailing and there were three banners placed around town. **The Hoffmans will place the banner announcements again.** Hope suggested putting an announcement on the Bobcat App. **Dr. Hanson and Amy will get that posted on the app and email the Peru State faculty and staff as well.**

Marilyn shared the information that was included in the survey announcement that was sent out in the community water bills. **Marilyn will send that to the group for posting.**

4) Planning Team Reports –

A) Infrastructure – See above “Long-Term Recovery Group update”.

B) Housing – No update.

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

D) Business/Economic Development (B.E.D.) – See grocery store follow-up above.

5) Next Meeting: Next meeting will be September 18, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. on ZOOM (Normally the third Friday of the month).