

ImPERUving as oNE
Meeting Notes
Sept. 25, 2020
Meeting by ZOOM @ 9:00 a.m.

Present: Dan Hanson, Vanessa Sherman, Justin Douglas, Marty Peregoy, Kelsi Leininger, Marilyn Schlake, Tim Hoffman, Amy Mincer

- 1) Review of Aug. 21 meeting notes** – In a review of the prior meeting notes, items listed in red font should be addressed during the discussion today.

Dr. Hanson had all reintroduce and reviewed the group’s Mission and Vision Statements as listed on the agenda.

- 2) Long-Term Recovery Group update** – Dr. Hanson reviewed the progress of the LTRG, which is working on flood recovery/funding concerns for Peru. Some of the projects in which the LTRG is currently supporting the City are:

- Staff Person – The group received grant funding to hire a full-time Disaster Recovery Coordinator (DRC). Deborah Solie started in this position recently and is already making good progress. She will join these meetings on a regular basis, but was unable to attend today.
- Levee Repair – Congressman Smith’s office has been a great ally on this project. His work on getting wording included in the WRDA bill will make it possible for the Peru levee to return to the list of “active” levees for the USACE to repair.
- Water Solution –The City is waiting for final determination on funding from FEMA. There will be a pipeline for water from Auburn to Peru. This \$5 million project should be covered 75% by FEMA, 12.5% by NEMA, with the final 12.5% needed in matching funds for the City.
- Wastewater Solution – FEMA has agreed to fund the project to return the lagoons to pre-flood stage. It would take an additional \$5.3 million to protect the lagoons from future flooding, however once the levee is repaired, this project will not be necessary.
- Street Repairs – The City is working to obtain funding to have street repairs on Hoyt and Fifth Streets.
- Hazard Mitigation – The City is also working on a hazard mitigation project to obtain funding for those who lost their homes to the flood.

- 3) Grocery Store follow-up/survey update** – Marilyn Schlake reported that 274 surveys have been completed thus far, with 38% of those being students. The survey will be open until Oct. 1 and she hopes we will top 300 respondents. Preliminary results do favor having a grocery store in Peru, however most people buy their groceries in Nebraska City. **Vanessa agreed to take paper copies of the survey to the post office so patrons can pick one up there if needed.**

Marilyn and Charlotte met with a community member to discover her interest and capacity for grocery store ownership. She is working to put together funding sources and a feasibility study. Tim has also talked with this individual and asked all to keep the information confidential.

The group would like to see downtown revitalization, so keeping a grocery store downtown is a priority. Getting additional businesses downtown is certainly the goal. Dr. Hanson will discuss this

with DRC Deborah Solie. He noted that another individual has also talked with him about grocery store ownership.

Vanessa urged the group to be clear about our endorsements and support. It is important to communicate support of all potential projects.

Marilyn reported that 27 people have indicated on their survey responses that they would like to be more involved. Perhaps those individuals can be tapped to join this group's efforts.

- 4) **Planning Team Reports** – Dr. Hanson noted that these teams need a restart and asked others for their input. **The group will discuss this restart at the next meeting.**
 - A) **Infrastructure** – See above “Long-Term Recovery Group update”.
 - B) **Housing** – **Tim asked about the status of the NDED housing grant. Dr. Hanson will check on this and report at the next meeting.** There was discussion about residents who would like to have houses burned down. Marty reported that those people need to have a clean-up date/crew planned before their house can be destroyed.
 - C) **Attraction, Retention & Communication (ARC)** – No updates.
 - D) **Business/Economic Development (B.E.D.)** – See grocery store follow-up above.
- 5) **Next Meeting:** Next meeting will be Oct. 16, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. on ZOOM (Normally the third Friday of the month).