

ImPERUing as oNE
Meeting Notes
Sept. 20, 2019
City Hall @ 9:00 a.m.

Present: Dan Hanson, Becca Jewell, Justin Douglas, Sara Granfors, (By phone: Tim Hoffman, Cindy Hoffman)

Also Present: Amy Mincer, Bill Hunter (City Council)

- 1) **Review Mission and Vision statements (see agenda)** – Dr. Hanson reviewed these as guidance for the Committee and noted the importance of this group in light of the flood disaster.
- 2) **Review on Sept. 20 meeting notes** – Dr. Hanson asked all to report progress on the red highlights from the September notes.
- 3) **Flood Response Discussion** – Dr. Hanson led discussion on the following:
 - A) **Role of ImPERUing as oNE** –
 - This group has taken on the role of assisting with flood communication via the Bi-weekly Flood Response Report, which is distributed to the campus and community. Dr. Hanson encouraged all to attend the next City Council meeting for additional information on the long-term water solution for Peru.
 - B) **Peru Levee** – Brett Adams is on the Levee Board and has been keeping Dr. Hanson updated. They have spoken with a pro-bono attorney for advice and are waiting for more feedback. Bottom line, federal funding needs to be pursued through Congressional means for this levee repair.
 - C) **Peru Water Supply** – The temporary water plant is meeting the needs of the community, although Bill Hunter reported that it is operating at peak capacity 24/7. He noted the importance of conservation to give the plant some relief. Sara Granfors offered to talk with Rotoract about encouraging student water conservation. Bill is also working with JEO on a backup power supply for the water plant in the event of a power outage. Dr. Hanson reported that the City is no longer pursuing Rural Water as a long-term solution since that option will not meet the needs of the community. Although the source for the best quality of water lies beneath the flood waters, the City is still considering three long-term possibilities:
 - Rebuild the current water plant (under water)
 - Build a new water plant (best sources are under water)
 - Connect to Auburn water
 - D) **Long-Term Disaster Recovery** – Dr. Hanson reported that this new group met this morning and will continue meeting weekly for now. Funding may be sought to support a staff person who would manage the long-term recovery efforts. Charlotte Carpenter from the City Office will be joining the meetings to represent the City.
- 4) **DED Disaster Recovery Housing Funds** – Dr. Hanson reminded all that this is a time to celebrate the recent approval for Peru to receive \$500,000 in housing development funds. Bill Hunter reported

that these monies will be used to buy, rehab and sell properties (single family dwellings, owner occupied). The City Council wants to move this project along quickly. They will form a five-member commission to identify the four homes that will be renovated this coming year.

5) Planning Team Reports –

A) Infrastructure – Dr. Hanson has spoken with Darrin about the City’s great need of funding for street repairs. All reserve monies were used on water trucking costs during the flood. Bill Hunter noted that Hoyt Street has been identified as high-priority. In addition, 5th Street needs to be repaired correctly by pulling up the bricks and laying concrete.

B) Housing – Tim Hoffman has contacted a Nebraska City painting contractor who will be painting some of their Peru properties. **They will try using student helpers and will contact Crystal Hutson for volunteer names.** This same contractor would agree to oversee a paint-a-thon in Peru. They would need help identifying houses for this project. Discussion on this topic led to the pilot project idea of painting the yellow house on Park Avenue.

Tim suggested insurance claim money (from hail damage) might help residents with painting costs. Bill Hunter noted that home maintenance grants are available. **Dr. Hanson will ask Senator Slama how the paint cost was covered in the paint-a-thon she referenced in a prior meeting.** Cindy Hoffman pointed out the importance of a homeowner having “skin in the game” and taking some of the responsibility.

Peru’s water restrictions would influence the paint contractor in their use of power washing to prepare houses for painting. Tim and Cindy will research this concern.

Follow-up discussion included the **Housing Team developing a list of safety & basic quality standards for “approved/recommended” housing in Peru.** Bill Hunter recommended checking with Council Bluffs regarding their program standards and annual inspections.

C) Attraction, Retention & Communication (ARC) – Becca Jewell reported that the team celebrated their goal of developing the resource magnet which was distributed to students when the semester began. The team also heard from Adam Neveau about community members using campus spaces for activities.

Dr. Hanson reviewed the plan we discussed regarding holding a “community day on campus”. It seems best to have this event right before school begins in August. **Becca agreed and said that the ARC team will work on this project.**

Amy Mincer reported that she will check with Marketing on the status of the “Bobcat Bonus” flyer, which is a list of campus resources available to the community. When it is ready, it will be printed and distributed.

D) Business/Economic Development (B.E.D.) – Dr. Hanson reviewed that the BED Planning Team has developed and distributed to local business owners a list with instructions on how to promote their businesses to students. As a result, some business relationships with the College have been improving.

A student group continues to pursue an off-campus location to house a student-run coffee shop called "Peru Brew". Three local business owners have offered space to the group, which has decided that the "Hair Cottage" space will best suit their needs. The students are working on a business plan and are researching contract needs for use of the space. They will also be seeking funding for renovations. Sara Granfors reported that these students gave a project presentation at a conference in Denver recently and they received helpful feedback for Peru Brew.

- 6) **Ongoing Student Participation** – Sara Granfors will be graduating this year and would like to see another student take her place with this group. She would like to help guide a new person into this position. After discussion, it was decided that **Sara will help recruit a few students who would benefit and would like to participate. She will make recommendations at the next meeting.**
- 7) **Next Meeting:** November 22 at 9:00 a.m. at Peru City Hall (usually third Friday of month, however November rescheduled due to scheduling conflict).