

LOWE PARK DISTRICT PLAN: MEETING PACKET

MEETING NOTICE

Wednesday, February 27th, 2008

3:00 – 4:30pm

Planning Conference Room, Marion City Hall

Group Members: Les Beck – Linn County; Dan Whitlow – Marion; Todd Steigerwaldt – Marion; Tom Treharne – Marion; Dave Hockett – Marion; Kesha Kaiser – Marion; Vern Zakosteleyky – Cedar Rapids; Sam Shea – Cedar Rapids; Adam Lindenlaub – CMPO; Sushil Nepal – CMPO; Drew Westberg – CMPO

Agenda

1. Revised Workplan: (3:00 – 3:30pm)

- a. Public Involvement Strategy
- b. School Involvement Strategy
- c. 1st Public Meeting
 - i. Agenda / Format
 - ii. Key Topics
 - iii. Public Meeting Logistics (date, time, location, participants, etc.)
 1. Background Information?

2. Media Communications: (3:30 – 3:45pm)

- a. Communications Strategy
 - i. Key Messages (Draft)
 - ii. Council Updates – method

3. General Discussion: (3:45 – 4:10pm)

- a. Sewer Capacity Issues
 - i. What questions do we have? What information do we need?
- b. Low-density vs. High-density (and its various forms)

4. Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 5th

3:00 - 4:30pm

Planning Conference Room, Marion City Hall

LOWE PARK DISTRICT PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE: PURPOSE & GOALS

Purpose:

- To proactively plan for growth and development within the northern metro growth corridor that presents a clear vision for the future and accounts for:
 - Infrastructure needs
 - Possible school locations
 - Stormwater drainage issues
 - Current and future annexation boundaries

Steering Committee Goals:

1. Incorporate Smart Growth Principles
2. Establish a framework for inter-governmental planning group
3. Coordinate utility expansions
4. Provide the basis and guidance for future land and transportation development
5. Bring schools formally into the process / discussion
 - a. Establish a coordinated, comprehensive School Location Plan
6. Identify regional stormwater solutions
7. Ensure coordination with other local, regional, and state plans
8. Educate the public and affected stakeholders through the planning process

LOWE PARK DISTRICT PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE: MEETING SUMMARY

Date: Feb. 13th, 2008

3:00 – 4:30pm, Marion City Hall, Conference Room

Meeting Attendees: Sam Shea (Planner) – Cedar Rapids; Tom Treharne (Planning Director) – Marion; Dave Hockett (Assist. Planning Director) – Marion; Kesha Kaiser (Planner) – Marion; Les Beck (Planning Director) – Linn County; Adam Lindenlaub (Administrator) – Corridor MPO; Vern Zakostelecky (Land Development Coordinator) – Cedar Rapids

Members Absent: Richard Luther (Development Operations Manager) – Cedar Rapids; Dan Whitlow (City Engineer) – Marion; Todd Steigerwaldt (Assistant City Engineer) – Marion;

Staff Present: Drew Westberg (Corridor MPO); Sushil Nepal (Corridor MPO)

The Lowe Park District Plan Steering Committee held its second meeting to discuss the future of the northern metro growth area. Staff began the meeting by summarizing the previous meeting's discussion of the plan's purpose and goals. Les Beck asked if these goals were for the Steering Committee or the actual plan. Staff suggested they could be both, and could be presented to the public for comment at the initial meeting. Beck suggested that instead the goals should guide the Steering Committee, whereas the Plan goals should be set by the public at the initial meeting. The group agreed with Beck's suggestion.

Following the discussion of goals, staff presented the group with a draft timeline. General discussion of the timeline took place. The Steering Committee focused primarily on the initial public meeting, its format, and location. In general, the group suggested that the meeting format include a breakout into topic-specific groups that would be moderated by Steering Committee members. These topic-specific groups would help set the goals of the plan.

Staff then presented the merged Corridor MPO and City of Marion future land use scenario maps. The Steering Committee noted that the main purpose of the maps was to generate discussion and was less important at this stage. The Steering Committee asked that staff begin compiling maps of summary data (i.e. sanitary sewer, drainage, soils, environmental features, etc.) for the area. In addition, Vern Zakostelecky recommended that the western plan boundary be extended to the Robins annexation line.

Next Meeting Deliverables:

- 1. Sanitary Sewer Maps**
- 2. Draft workplan: Update**
- 3. Public Meeting Agenda**
- 4. Notification Plan / Strategy**
- 5. Draft Key Messages, Press Release, and Council Update information**
- 6. List of Key Topics**
- 7. Clear definition of “low-density” vs. “high density”**

LOWE PARK DISTRICT PLAN: STAKEHOLDER'S MEETING

Thursday, April 3rd, 2008
6:30 – 8:30pm
Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center
4500 N 10th St.
Marion, IA

AGENDA

- 5. Introductions:** (6:30 – 6:35pm)
- 6. Corridor MPO Overview:** (6:35 – 6:45pm)
Corridor MPO staff provide a brief overview of MPO responsibilities.
- 7. Purpose of Meeting:** (6:45 – 7:00pm)
Staff will provide a brief overview of the project, identifying the purpose, need, and timeline for this project. Staff will then introduce the Steering Committee and explain the format of the meeting.
- 8. Topic Selection:** (7:00 – 7:45pm)
Meeting participants will choose one of five topic-specific groups based on personal interest. These groups will identify assets, opportunities, and challenges for future development of the area. The groups will then work to identify working topic-related goals/objectives for the overall plan.
- 9. Discussion of Assets, Opportunities, & Challenges:** (7:45 – 8:00pm)
Each group will present their findings, followed with general discussion.
- 10. Next Steps:** (8:10 – 8:15pm)
Staff will summarize the group findings and other comments received at this public meeting. These summaries will be sent to meeting participants and posted on the Corridor MPO's website for further comment. Additional topic-specific meetings will be held to further address topic goals, questions, concerns, ideas and to compile additional data from district stakeholders.

LOWE PARK DISTRICT PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE:

Key Messages: Draft

The population of the northern metro area is estimated to increase more than 200% by 2040.

- In 2000, population was about 16,000. By 2040, estimated to exceed 50,000.

Unplanned, uncoordinated, sprawling development is an inefficient use of public funds and wasteful of taxpayer dollars.

- According to the Urban Land Institute, over \$100 billion of taxpayer dollars could be saved nationally by 2028 if new development followed more compact patterns.

The housing market is demanding more than just homes, it's demanding neighborhoods.

- A 2004 National Association of Realtors survey found that 60% of prospective homebuyers chose the neighborhood that offered:
 - Shorter commutes
 - Sidewalks
 - Amenities such as shops, restaurants, libraries, schools, and public transportation within walking distance.

This planning effort can assure significant savings to the general public and school districts if new school locations are identified well in advance of development.

- According to the ULI, higher density housing reduces the burden on schools and other public services. Per 100 units, single-family homes have 64 children compared to only 19 children for mid- to high-rise apartments/condominiums.

The characteristics of households and housing are changing.

- By 2010, the number of households without children under 18 yrs. old will increase by 30%.
- 2003 marked the first time in U.S. history that there were more single-family households (26.4%) than married couples with children (23.3%).
- Luxury apartments are one of the fastest growing components of multi-family housing.
- 41% of all renters do so by choice and make more than \$50,000 per year.