

LOWE PARK DISTRICT PLAN: MEETING PACKET

MEETING NOTICE

Wednesday, March 5th, 2008

3:00 – 4:30pm

Executive 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 Zakostecky – Cedar Rapids; Sam Shea – Cedar Rapids; Adam Lindenlaub – CMPO; Sushil Nepal – CMPO; Drew Westberg – CMPO

Agenda

1. Revised Agenda: (3:00 – 3:30pm)

- a. 1st Public Meeting
 - i. Agenda / Format
 - ii. Key Topics
 - 1. Issues/Questions generated by Committee
 - iii. Public Meeting Logistics (date, time, location, participants, etc.)
 - 1. Background Information?

2. Media Communications: (3:30 – 4:00pm)

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

3. General Discussion: (4:00 – 4:20pm)

- a. 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. 27th, 2008

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

Meeting Attendees: Sam Shea (Planner) – Cedar Rapids; Tom Treharne (Planning Director) – Marion; Kesha Kaiser (Planner) – Marion; Les Beck (Planning Director) – Linn County; Dan Whitlow (City Engineer) – Marion;

Members Absent: Richard Luther (Development Operations Manager) – Cedar Rapids; Todd Steigerwaldt (Assistant City Engineer) – Marion; Dave Hockett (Assist. Planning Director) – Marion; Adam Lindenlaub (Administrator) – Corridor MPO; Vern Zakostelecky (Land Development Coordinator) – Cedar Rapids

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

The Lowe Park District Plan Steering Committee held its third meeting to discuss the future of the northern metro growth area. Staff began the meeting by discussing the revised workplan with particular focus to the school communication strategy. The group discussed this further and concluded that one member of the Linn-Mar school district should attend one or several Committee meetings following the initial public meeting. Dan Whitlow noted that they should be informed of this prior to the initial public meeting so as to allay any unnecessary concerns. Tom Treharne also suggested looking over a copy of the district's 10-year plan.

The Committee then turned its focus to the draft agenda established by staff. Several suggestions were made including, an opening statement to discuss the possibilities of this area, a brief and concise overview of the Corridor MPO, the need to discuss possible outcomes with the public, and the need to be creative in the presentation and meeting format. The Committee also noted that the final plan should bear a level of specificity more in line with a Comprehensive Plan rather than a Master Plan.

In particular, the group focused on the Topics of concern. Staff generated a general list of issues including Transportation, Housing, Environment, Parks & Open Space, and Land Use. Les Beck asked how the breakout sessions would work. Staff suggested that two to three members of the Committee facilitate each group. Tom Treharne suggested that the Committee bring questions/issues to the next meeting for each of the topics.

Dan Whitlow then began to discuss the sewer service area and capacity issues facing this area. He provided illustrations of the area, and noted that there are some logistical issues regarding the servicing of Cedar Rapids residents via Marion sewer. At present, he noted, Marion would have no means of collecting the connection fee. Marion will also be providing staff with their GIS information related to the area for further mapping.

The next meeting will be March 5th, 2008 and will focus primarily on the meeting agenda and communications plan.

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

- 1. Introductions:** (6:30 – 6:35pm)
- 2. Sustainability & the Future** (6:35 – 6:50pm)
Staff will present several national demographic trends and discuss important concepts in planning for future generations. [Use post-its or note cards]
 - Describe Cedar Rapids Metro Area in one word.
 - What is your favorite place/thing/aspect in the CR metro?
 - What do other metros have that you would like to see here?
- 3. Corridor MPO Overview:** (6:50 – 7:00pm)
Corridor MPO staff provide a brief overview of MPO responsibilities.
- 4. Purpose of Meeting:** (6:55 – 7:10pm)
Staff will provide a brief overview of the project, identifying the purpose, need, opportunities, potential outcomes, and timeline for this project. Staff will then introduce the Steering Committee and explain the format of the meeting.
- 5. Discussion of Topic Assets, Opportunities, & Challenges:** (7:10 – 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.
- 6. Group Presentations:** (7:45 – 8:15pm)
Each group will present their findings, followed with general discussion.
- 7. Next Steps:** (8:15 – 8:30pm)

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.