

# Appendix B: Workshop Notes

## KICK OFF MEETING – Town Introductions

Notes by David Cary

Eat dinner and have towns introduce themselves

\*very proud of towns!!

- Waverly – growing, housing, RR & highway, younger families, schools, attractive, recent plan adopted
- Hickman – growing, housing, subdivisions coming in, Theater, roads to and from town and issue, infrastructure
- Bennet – growing, housing, splash park, Community Foundation work on mural on old fire hall, 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, watermelon race, farmers market
- Firth – not on the way to anywhere – have to want to go there. Not a lot of development within town. Settled on a Dutch community – small existing houses that are tough to sell & attract. Housing concern. Norris School District is a benefit, but not really the identity of Firth. Need to create community spirit with “acreage people” to be part of town. Grant for splash pad project. Master park plan. Some good restaurants (pasta sauce). Infrastructure in good shape (have done appreciative inquiry). About to get into marketing and branding.
- Panama – Community center; community library w/ police substation. BMX course. Active and progressive board. Trail grant. Santa sleigh tradition. 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. Meat locker business. Want to have a restaurant/coffee shop. Old school building apartments needs something to happen – now owners want a mixed purpose building. Are a bedroom community, but don’t identify with the town on much. Want to update welcome sign to town.
- Hallam – Hallam Steakhouse, dairy. Tornado. That is a community challenge. Need to do it right. Rebuilding everything. Community Center built. Headstone for Potter’s Field. Heart on signs & water tower. Highest elevation in County. Need to fix RR tracks as launch pad for speeding. Need trees & sidewalks. Need to increase tax spending to fix eyesores. Some foreclosures. Need housing. Water quality issues. Infrastructure.
- Denton – kind of losing identity and don’t have a lot of people. Between Lincoln and Crete (school). Mostly the problem. Decent infrastructure. Downtown pretty well cleaned up. Car show. Denton Community Activities Committee. Excited about new trail project.

## **PLANNING PRESENTATION – Brandon Garrett**

Notes by David Cary

### **SESSION 1 (HICKMAN & HALLAM)**

Hickman – Do have a lot of activity in downtown but a lot of the old buildings are gone. Comp Plan is from 2007. Contract with JEO to update this year. Energy element is one area of discussion; more commercial; trails; recycling center; mixed use. Does need updating. Probably add a good statement about revitalizing downtown. Need to define what 68th will be like. How do you change character of an area when landlocked (RR & highway)? Maybe a workshop item for update.

Hallam – Plan updated in 2014. First one in 2011 as full overall w/2010 census data. Annual update. Surveys on goals used. Some variances to plan for projects, but really just trying to attract business and provide space/locations for them. Some hazardous items on Main Street from tornado still needs to be addressed. Discussed how might adopt building design standards. Should be discussed and then added to plan and then codify if decide to do this.

### **SESSION 2 (BENNET & FIRTH)**

Question on how often update the CP. Question about ETJ. Want executive summary of the CP to make more user friendly.

Bennet – ETJ: noted gravity flow sewer policy & how it will be a long time before respective, ETJ's will bump into each other. Beltway to be brought up. Interchange zoning status. Bennet is positioned to be its own city without Lincoln coming in & influencing

### **SESSION 3 (PANAMA, DENTON & WAVERLY)**

Waverly – Updated 2 years ago.

Denton – Been a long time since actually completed an update. Perhaps this is a first step for them.

Panama – Not sure when updated last.

Is there a place to go to help to start the process? Consultants & block grants available to do the work. Template available for easier updates (NPZA). Need a formal process to get busy in so stakeholders & public needs to drive the plan.

Trail map for tomorrow!!

Form based codes? Ed brought up.

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUCCESS STORIES – Milan Wall**

Notes by Jennifer Hiatt

### **SESSION 1 (DENTON, PANAMA & WAVERLY)**

Public Success Stories:

Waverly – Brainstormed ideas to help clean up park. Park Pride Pool Pass. Spend 8 hours helping clean up the parks. Cleaning up parks & gave kids a sense of ownership w/ the park. Local businesses donated to help the success of the project. Comp plan, involvement success. Got input from all stakeholders to ensure comp plan was all encompassing.

Panama – Community center; after they got the “yes”, people actively engaged in helping prepare the building; community gave books & shelves to create a library. Local businesses donated time and skills

Denton – Community clean-up day, got a lot of people involved

In Ashland, the right group got together to finally push Carnegie library project & turned it into a great community center.

Questions:

How do you give introvert space in duo/trio settings?

How do you record those moments?

### **SESSION 2 (HALLAM & HICKMAN)**

List of Resources for next time?

Questions:

Can you use the public participation tool-box be used in the work space as well

- Yes, good tool for all public use

Public Success Stories:

Hallam – Used the community center after the tornado to start the conversation about redevelopment. Had a Mexican dinner to engage conversation.

Hickman – Sent out flyers w/utility bills to get input on priority development. Mayor did a hotdog feed to open up conversations w/public about improvements. Uses Facebook to interact w/public

### **SESSION 3 (BENNET & FIRTH)**

Public Success Stories

Bennet – Community meetings for input & then organized committees to do the work - got a group of young people. Post office building was renovated w/public input because of common threat.

Arts Council – Omaha dog park was funded w/ grants that the community helped to get.

## PLACEMAKING AND THE POWER OF TEN – Cynthia Nikitin

Notes by Jordan Rasmussen

### SESSION 1 (BENNET & FIRTH)

What is placemaking?

#### FARMERS MARKET

- Surrounding it – health center, w/blood pressure checks
  - Community garden
  - Grocery store
- Co-location & clustering
- Activities use and space

#### PLACEMAKING OPPS – NH example

- Transportation
- Assets
  - What do people do in the area or at the location
  - Natural “hang outs” or make places for people to gather
  - Landmarks
- What are the problems? – parking
  - But goal was to address space problem
  - Experience places
  - Connecting places, linking
  - How to get people’s attention
- Parks
  - Low cost projects – focus on children activities – low costs
  - Farmers market & food trucks
  - Musical perform & reading time
- Squares – TX
  - Furnishings & programs
    - What would people do there?
- Libraries – Fort Meyers
  - Public space area informed the building
  - Programs just as important

What are the populations of some of these communities?

Government Buildings – Baltimore

Religious Institutions

- Must have multiple purposes ~ beyond religious institutions
- Think outside of your doors & connect them

Cultural Institutions

- Again connecting and acknowledging how institutions share constituents

Mixed-Use Districts

How to tie them together?

- A hospital, library and an art gallery
  - Took the leaders coming together to address needs

## POWER OF 10 EXERCISE

1. Consider the public space assets in your communities
2. List one to three new programs or activities that would help each become a great place destination
3. How can we link these places together visually, physically or programmatically?

*Just a note – I think the communities are a bit overwhelmed by this presentation – don't have the pieces – the businesses to start with – hard to scale some of the ideas down – or at least that is the perception*

Connecting the dots and the bigger picture

Give people ownership to bring activities to the park

## SESSION 2 (DENTON, PANAMA & WAVERLY)

What is placemaking?

- Stepping back from projects

Place – 10 things to do layered to create synergy

Destination – 10 places to go

City/Region – 10 destinations

Community/civic life – must have interactions to have

- What are people doing there and what will they need when they get there

## POWER OF 10 EXERCISE

- Self-programming

What 10 things can you do in this space?

- And in support of civic engagement

Identifying the problem

Create a series of activities to do together

Value of a first impression

- Capture attention and make people stop ~ not drive through

Kids programming brings parents

Series of activities in time as well as in space

Sharing of space and thinking outside of the walls

Being in the place you are planning

Odd partnership

- Parks
- Plazas/squares
- Creek
- Library
- Historic
- Schools
- Religious institutions
- Mainstreets
- Historic properties (as example)
- School - civic studies (ways to engage others)
- Newspaper
- Tours/map - adaptive reuse - events
- Oral history/inter - museum - coordination of ideas/events
- Partner w/history students
- Rebuilding a main street... in a dif. Location

Schools

- Converting
- Safe routes to school – have trouble getting funding

Health Community is willing to pay for things to keep health costs down

- Active transportation
- Developing farmers market
  - COMMUNITY HEALTH ENDOWMENT
    - Does this extend beyond Lincoln city limits

Movement away from walkable communities?

Joint applications

Hitting regulations and holds up of funding

Think of public institutions and their other uses, for the entire community – a school visit isn't only for school children, a fire hall can be an after school location (mentoring)

Get people thinking about promoting other businesses?

### **SESSION 3 (HALLAM & HICKMAN)**

#### **UNLIKELY PARTNERSHIPS**

main street

- mixed use dev.
- building front updates – but mngd by HS shop class – cost effic.
- farmers market
- empty lots – pop-up place/park

~ *quiet group*