

**Growth and planning**  
**August 9<sup>th</sup> 3:30-5pm**

Attendees: SaraBeth Drybread, Karri Steckler, Willie Matis, Dana Monson, Bob Siefert, Steve Powell, Jennifer Hollingshead, Cindy Cook,

**Stellar community presentation discussion- Karri**

It's a huge program that encompasses a lot, so it was nice to have Randy come and talk about his experiences in Delphi. We want to start a conversation and identify 4 team members that are willing to volunteer for a phase one/ viability study to dig into the details and then condense into a FAQ/ cliff notes version to pass along to the larger group. We need to know how it would be applicable to Johnson County/ Growth and Planning. We'd ultimately partner with other groups if we proceeded with the project. Discussion about Stellar communities now require 2 or more entities (in the same county or across county lines). What is the timeline? Not sure of when we'd even submit, but just need to learn about the requirements and how it could benefit our communities. Deadline to submit is April 2019 or maybe look at April 2020. Steve likes the idea of going forward with applying. Dana said that we'd need: Letter of intent, communities identified, need the communities support (election year, so the support could change), and identified projects to apply. If Aspire can take on the viability and give a presentation or FAQ page, that would help our communities understand. Steve Powell said that he'd been interested in serving on this ad hoc committee. Karri said that Sam Marcello might be interested in doing this as well. What stood out the most? What applies to Johnson County? Where is the greatest need in Johnson County that would be the most impacted? Steve would love to have something together by September. Could we have an informal conversation with HWC to discuss them being a part of the application. Dana said that we need to dig into the information first before we bring HWC into the application process.

Delphi is small without a lot of resources. We have Dana, the EDC's to help get things started. We need to figure out what communities are viable, financial support, what projects we have in mind. Cindy Cook is interested in serving on the committee too. SaraBeth is very interested and would be chair and loves strategic planning. She mentioned Corydon is also looking at Stellar Communities. We need to make sure we think bigger- holistically across the county.

What really stood out to you about what benefitted Delphi most from their project? Randy was very driven to see the project through. Need a community champion. SaraBeth-Was impressed by the true transformation in Delphi; we can expand on what is already happening. Talk of getting consultant in early so we're not chasing our tails...helps us to know what Stellar communities is looking for. Randy Strasser could tell us who they worked with at HWC. Karri said that she could do the reach out to Randy.

What entities come to mind? Steve said they love partnerships between counties and municipalities. Things that are unique- like the Opera house in Delphi. Cindy- the county could be one of the entities. Think about the resources not only of Aspire, but of the communities and if they would be willing to partner. Willie said that if we're doing the legwork and not asking for money just yet, they will most likely be supportive. Edinburg sits in 3 counties, consider the southern part of the county could give a big bang for the buck. Karri mentioned the virtual ag school in Morgan County through Nineveh Hensley Jackson (Indian Creek Schools).

### **EPICS- Bob**

White River trails plan, Whiteland/ New Whiteland trails plan, expanding overall plan – what else is missing? Dana and Carmen are reviewing to flesh out. Vet out to submit for September 2019 (needs to be submitted in 6 months in advance). Preconstruction work is always the hardest. Conceptual design for White River, maybe Whiteland, 2<sup>nd</sup> year flesh out and expanding master plan.

Willie had a trails meeting yesterday with Erin Slevin. She mentioned reaching out to someone at Purdue for a possible letter of support to include. Does this overlap with hiring a consulting group? Students can help with small internal connections rather than major connections. Macro/ micro plan. How to get from a neighborhood to a trails system for example.

### **Trails update- Willie**

Revenue development- still taking place. Potential matching from the community foundation want \$25,000 to match with \$25,000. Met with BF & S and they said Hancock county raised \$90,000. Looking for ways to get \$25,000. Carmen has some meetings coming up with a few groups, possible IHEDA/ placemaking grant that is crowdfunded and provide platform. Or we can apply directly (using our \$40,000 as a match). Let Erin, Carmen, Willie and Dana know if you know someone that might be willing to donate or offers a grant that we could apply for. Press release for Opus grant money will come out in a few weeks. Carmen will send out a link to it. There is an interest form on the Facebook page and possibly Johnson County Trails website to give their information if people want to get involved.

### **I-69 Corridor update-**

Public meeting tonight from 6pm-8pm; Steve and Cindy plan on attending. Cindy has shared the public meeting info on Next Door as well. Willie- can we get feedback from the public meeting tonight on if people think I-69 is really far away and are passive on the plan or are the alarm bells ringing? We're so involved in it, but others in the community are very unaware. Steve said that we have one shot as a county to get it right and look nice. We need to keep pushing for high quality. Bob mentioned that he hasn't seen anything about the public meeting in the Daily Journal.

Karri believes that we are satisfying co-working need with the Elevator.

Karri and Willie were talking about when trails give their update, narrow down to a specific ask. Have been more high level on building a team and what is entailed, but when we've asked for specific volunteers for projects/events, people step up. Think about what is the specific ask that you need from the rest of the group when you give a project update or are posting info on social media (Next Door/ Facebook/ etc.), needing volunteers for a specific event. Cindy said that she really likes Willie's ready-to-go Growth and Planning updates for social media.

Aspire large group meeting is on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Next growth and planning meeting is September 13<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5pm .

Meeting adjourned at 4:45pm

Minutes submitted by Jennifer Hollingshead