



HEARTLAND 2050 REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (H2050 RPAC)

Heartland 2050 is a community driven initiative pulling in stakeholders from across the region to think big and work towards a common vision for our six county region anchored by the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area.

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, June 3, 2022 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES: Kyle Anderson, Fred Conley, Guillermo Díaz, Dave Forrest, Bruce Fountain, Heather Gamon, Chris Gibbons, Dan Giittinger, Lindsay Huse, Michael Jensen, Steve Jensen, Jason Kubicek, Patrick Leahy, Nancy Pridal, Vicki Quaites-Ferris, Eva Roberts, Keith Station, Mark Stursma, Michaela Valentin

GUESTS: Derek Miller, Robert Franco, Marissa Hattab, Jennifer Sommer, Jamin Johnson

MAPA STAFF: Mike Helgerson, Karna Loewenstein, Laura Heilman, Sue Cutsforth, Grant Anderson, Court Barber, Travis Halm, Isabelle Fleming, Lindsey Button

- A. Welcome and Introductions – Chair Nancy Pridal, Lamp Rynearson
- B. Approval of Minutes from April 1 2022 Meeting - Chair Nancy Pridal, Lamp Rynearson
 - a. Minutes approved
- C. City of Omaha Housing Affordability Action Plan - Derek Miller, City of Omaha Planning Department
 - a. LB 866 requires this Action Plan for specific cities in Nebraska
 - i. Must also be adopted as part of the Omaha Comprehensive Plan
 - b. City is working on several related/overlapping plans
 - i. Consolidated Plan 2024-2028 (required by HUD)
 - ii. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing
 - 1. Includes Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (required by HUD)
 - 2. The AFFH is not required by current federal administration, but City is building on high levels of engagement done in 2016/2017 for that effort
 - iii. Would like the Action Plan to be part of a holistic housing strategy for City/region
 - c. This HAAP effort started in March 2022, currently in the middle of public engagement efforts (including 7 public meetings and 18 listening sessions to date)
 - i. Survey currently open; looking for more responses before June 17
 - d. Plan will be approved by City Council, hopefully by end of 2022
 - e. Also working to include western Douglas County cities in the Omaha plan
 - f. Recent Omaha Area Affordable Housing Assessment has a lot of great data that is being used to inform the plan
 - g. Recent Code Audit of City of Omaha zoning code by Congress for New Urbanism for walkability and affordable housing zoning change recommendations also being used to inform the plan
 - i. Available on the Heartland 2050 website (www.heartland2050.org) under Resources
 - h. It is undetermined exactly how the HAAP will align with City of Omaha Charter Convention, but would like this plan to be part of a holistic housing strategy for City/region with goals and benchmarks and be included in the Charter Convention conversation
 - i. One part of this plan will be a definition of affordability and a conversation on gentrification and redlining

HEARTLAND 2050 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

EQUITY | INCLUSIVITY | EFFICIENCY | LOCAL CONTROL/REGIONAL BENEFIT



- D. Recognition of Service - Mike Helgerson & Karna Loewenstein, MAPA**
 - a. Recognition of service to outgoing Heartland 2050 Committee Chairs
 - i. Nancy Pridal, Chair - RPAC
 - ii. Vicki Quaites-Ferris, Chair - Equity & Engagement
 - iii. Kyle Anderson, Chair - Infrastructure
 - iv. Patrick Leahy, Chair - Natural Resources
 - v. Zach Reinhart, Chair - Housing & Development

- E. Indy Site Visit Recap - Karna Loewenstein, MAPA**
 - a. MAPA took 30 people to Indianapolis April 25-27 2022
 - i. 5 MAPA Staff and 25 stakeholders from across the region
 - b. MAPA does a Learning Site Visit every year to learn from peer or aspirational cities
 - c. Indianapolis highlights:
 - i. Indy Cultural Trail, Monon Trail and transit-oriented development
 - ii. Successful voter referendum for transit funding
 - iii. Expanding BRT system with electric vehicles
 - iv. Sustainability & equity efforts by City, County and Chamber
 - v. Carmel IN walkability and dense suburban development

- F. Council Bluffs to Kansas City Streetcar Trip Recap - Laura Heilman, MAPA**
 - a. One-day trip to KC and back on Thursday, May 12, 2022
 - b. Approximately 30 attendees (various CB area stakeholders)
 - c. Led by Mayor Matt Walsh & Brandon Garrett from the City of Council Bluffs
 - d. Support from Iowa West Foundation
 - e. Intent was to connect with local experts about the KC Streetcar system and transit-oriented development as well as experience the streetcar firsthand
 - f. MAPA was asked to support the trip because of our experience hosting successful Learning Site Visits
 - g. Morning: Speakers and a Local Experts Panel @ Union Station
 - h. Afternoon: Ride the Streetcar and Explore Neighborhood Nodes

- G. Heartland 2050 Strategic Thinking Results - Karna Loewenstein, MAPA**
 - a. Shared draft summary results from a conversation at the April 2022 RPAC meeting where attendees worked in small groups to answer the question “If Heartland 2050 really ramped up for the next two years what could we do that would be the most useful?”
 - i. Categories include Communication & Engagement, Shared Measurement and Collaboration, Outreach and Community Support

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H. Additional Business

a. Committee Updates - Committee Chairs

i. Natural Resources

1. If anyone is interested in joining the Natural Resources committee or a working group, please reach out to Laura Heilman with MAPA to learn more
2. Kyle Madsen will be the new committee Chair

ii. Equity & Engagement

1. Working on final community review before publishing Equitable Development Scorecard (planned for July)
2. Currently looking for a new committee Chair

iii. Housing & Development

1. Jeff Spiehs with Lamp Rynearson will be a new committee Chair

iv. Infrastructure

1. Just held a strategic planning meeting for this committee
2. Derek Miller will be new committee Chair

b. Community Updates

i. OPPD has found that biggest barrier to communication regarding storms or outages is outdated contact information with customer-owners; has handout cards available to share with the public to expedite updating contact info

ii. City of Council Bluffs has started econd phase of the FIRST AVE trail; to be completed by late summer or early fall

iii. Council Bluffs is starting to look at parking and potential adjustments to minimum requirements

iv. This group has unique ability to break down silos; we should be trendsetters in working together regionally to tackle affordable housing and other shared concerns

1. We should examine who else are we missing in the conversation
2. This would be helpful for developers who want to work in multiple jurisdictions as well
3. Does RPAC need a policy committee to support this work?

v. City of Omaha is launching public engagement for their Bike/Ped Master Plan

1. Supported by Heartland 2050 Mini-grant
2. Should take about one year to complete
3. Please look for and share information with your networks

c. TIP Draft Comment Period (5/20 - 6/23) - Court Barber, MAPA

i. Plan for next six years of federally-funded transportation projects

1. Updated annually to add a new year of projects
2. Competitive process; RFP opens in fall with applications due in early January

ii. Public meeting next Wednesday, 6/8 from 4-5:30 pm at MAPA

1. MAPA is also updating our Long Range Transportation Plan; this meeting will be the public meeting for both purposes

iii. Draft TIP and meeting materials on the MAPA website

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- d. Western Douglas County Collaborative Status - Mike Helgerson, MAPA
 - i. MAPA convening Douglas County, Bennington, Waterloo and Valley to discuss common issues and ways to collaborate
 - ii. Held a second meeting on May 25 - discussed trails and housing
 - 1. City of Omaha will work with these communities in their Housing Affordability Action Plan
 - 2. Eric Williams with the Papio-Missouri River NRD presented information on trail network and planned improvements
 - a. Eric and Dave Forrest will attend upcoming meetings with individual communities to continue to build support for trails
 - iii. Planning the next meeting for August timeframe
- e. MAPA Annual Awards - Mike Helgerson, MAPA
 - i. Asking for nominations for Regional Service Award (recognizing an organization for regional collaboration) and Citizenship Award (for an individual)
 - ii. Winners will be awarded at the MAPA Annual Meeting in October
- f. Heartland 2050 Summit, June 29, 2022 - Karna Loewenstein, MAPA
 - i. Registration is now open for the Summit - \$50 cost
 - ii. Wednesday, June 29th from 8 am-12:30 pm at the UNO Thompson Alumni Center
 - iii. Keynote Speaker: Tamika Butler
 - 1. Former Omaha resident and current PhD student in the UCLA Urban Planning Department

I. Adjourn

Future Meetings & Events:

Heartland 2050 Summit - June 29, 2022
H2050 Regional Planning Advisory Committee – August 5, 2022