Volunteer Initiative

December 11, 2019

Development Committee
Volunteering

• Fosters connections to community
• Is a positive way to promote city programs
• Is one of the most powerful ways to improve one’s life, health, and happiness

“An engaged community harness its most valuable resource, its residents”
~ National Citizen Survey
Supports numerous City priorities

- iGreenCR – Empowered Citizens
- EnvisionCR- GrowCR
- Initiatives:
  - Blue Zones Project
  - Healthy Hometown
  - Age-Friendly Network
Support municipal volunteers:

1. Conduct a department-wide survey
2. Volunteer recognition
3. Promote volunteer opportunities
4. Marketing
Next Steps

• Survey to department managers
• Analyze survey & follow-up conversations

Presented by:
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iGreenCR Action Plan
Development Committee
December 11, 2019
Defining sustainability

**Definition:** To be sustainable is to meet the needs of today without preventing future generations from meeting their needs.

**Triple bottom line:** Pursuing sustainability in the City operation means addressing and improving environmental, social, and economic health in tandem.
Background

• **2015** – Sustainability Coordinator position creation
• **2016** – State of Affairs, sustainability report
• **2017** – Sustainable City Talks
• **2018** – STAR Communities, 4-STAR designation
• **2019** – iGreenCR Action Plan development
• **2020** – iGreenCR Action Plan adoption and implementation, the City’s first municipal sustainability plan
Achievements

• **Resources** | First City in Iowa to achieve SolSmart Gold; first City in Iowa to hold Solar Group Buy

• **Nature** | 1,000 Acre Pollinator Initiative, Middle Cedar Partnership Project, Stormwater Cost-Share Program

• **Development** | Flood Control System, Core Neighborhood development, Rezone

• **Community** | Neighborhood Finance Corporation, Complete Streets, Bike lanes, Sponsored Student Bus Fares
Continuing leadership

• iGreenCR Action Plan focuses on City operations
• Lead by example, share success and resources
• A commitment to triple bottom line sustainability across the organization
• Involves all 1,400 staff
• Fiscal Year 2020, 21, & 22
Elements – the 4 focus areas

1. Resources
2. Nature
3. Development
4. Community
Resources

- Reduce greenhouse gasses, energy consumption, fuel consumption, water waste, and landfill waste.
- Increase use of renewable energy.
Nature

- Protect and grow the tree canopy.
- Improve water quality, decrease flooding potential, and increase recreation opportunities.
- Implement park and green space best practices to improve biodiversity and public health.
Development

• Connect citizens to community resources and increase affordable housing opportunities.
• Preserve and reuse historic structures and sites.
• Grow resilience to environmental hazards and an intensifying climate.
• Enhance economic strength, quality of life, and vibrancy.
Community

• Diversify staff representation and program equity.
• Champion and celebrate literacy, art, and youth.
• Increase food health and availability.
• Cultivate inclusive, healthy community through transportation choices.
• Empower student education and City-connectedness.
• Grow community cohesion and connections.
Right time to engage community

- Climate Action Planning involves adaptation and mitigation
- iGreenCR Action Plan recommends convening community stakeholders in climate resilience conversation in FY21
Thank you

December 18: Finalize plan with departments
January 28: Presentation to City Council
Implement for Fiscal Year 2020-22
Evaluate and update for Fiscal Year 2023-25

Presented by:
Sandi Fowler
Deputy City Manager
Eric Holthaus
Sustainability Coordinator
NFC Cedar Rapids, LLC
Lending Area

Lending Area
Proposed Additions
Area Action Plan Focus

• Typical Action Plan Elements
  • Connectivity – vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists, transit
  • Land Use – density and intensity, mix and integration of types, efficient utilization
  • Streetscapes – landscaping, lighting, amenities
  • Character – building placement, location, height, historic nature
  • Placemaking – key intersections, gateways, signage
Advisory Group

• Role
  • Provide feedback
  • Preview public engagement activities
  • Encourage and advocate

• Members
  • Pam Lewis
  • Jennifer Stewart
  • Abby Huff
  • Don Barrigar
  • Craig Byers
  • Jim Piersall
  • David Tominsky
  • Steve Shriver
  • Lynette Richards
  • Eric Wullner
  • Steve Sovern
  • Dale Todd
Additional Considerations

Considerations unique to the Czech Village/NewBo Area Action Plan include:

- Czech Village Greenway Park Plan Review
- Gateways
  - 3rd Street SE/8th Avenue SE
  - 16th Avenue SE Bridge
- Trail Connections and bicycle traffic
Plan Development Timeline

• February 28th, 2018 - Czech Village/NewBo Summit Meeting
• March 12th, 2018 - Czech Village/NewBo Summit Meeting
• May 31st, 2018 - Czech Village/NewBo Summit Meeting
• September 12th – 14th, 2018 - Sinclair Site Design Workshop
• April 1st, 2019 - Advisory Group Kick-off
• June 5th, 2019 - Visioning Workshop
• July 17th – 19th, 2019 - Design Workshop
Visioning Workshop

- June 5th – 50+ attendees
- Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Challenges Analysis
- Geographic Mapping Exercise
SWOC Analysis

- **Strengths**
  - Historic buildings
  - Walkable
  - Arts and cultural reputation
  - Lots of land for infill/expansion

- **Weaknesses**
  - Lack of shuttle/transit service
  - Lack of cultural curation
  - Scale/context of new development
SWOC Analysis

• Opportunities
  • Trolley loop
  • Access to the river
  • City-owned property open for development
  • Well designed architecture

• Challenges
  • Finding developers willing to go small
  • Rent and housing costs
  • Limited hours and days for retailers
Geographic Mapping Exercise

- Focus on Housing and Public Amenities
  - Trails
  - Playground
  - Boutique hotel
  - Unique bridge lighting
  - Lot 44 development
  - Year round Roundhouse
  - Housing around greenway park
  - Housing around Sinclair Site
Design Workshop

- **July 17th – July 19th**
  - Consultant design studio in Cedar Rapids
- **Day 1**
  - Concept Formulation
  - Public pin-up session
- **Day 2**
  - Refinement of concepts
  - Public pin-up session
- **Day 3**
  - Refinement of concepts
  - Public pin-up session
Design Workshop – Day 1

- Concept A
- Concept A Results
Design Workshop – Day 1

- Concept B

- Concept B Results
Design Workshop – Day 1

- Concept C

- Concept C Results
Design Workshop – Day 1

• Concept D

• Concept D Results
Design Workshop – Day 2

- Czech Village A
- Czech Village A Results
Design Workshop – Day 2

- Czech Village B
- Czech Village B Results
Design Workshop – Day 2

- NewBo Infill
- NewBo Infill Results
Design Workshop – Day 2

- Sinclair Site
- Sinclair Site Results
Design Workshop Day 3

- Final Draft Concept
Open House

- October 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2019 – 50+ attendees
- Share draft Action Steps
- Share feedback received to date
Action Steps

- 32 Action Steps
  - Address issues
  - Promote & encourage continued growth and redevelopment
Action Steps (continued)

• Key Action Steps
  • Design and construct Smokestack Bridge and trail extensions.
  • Determine the programmed amenities to be included in the future greenway park, including the Round House.
  • Design of new streets adjacent to the greenway park and Sinclair detention basin.
  • Develop strategy for the inventory and phasing of city-owned property near the greenway park, Sinclair detention basin, and in Lot 44.
Next Steps

- December 11\textsuperscript{th}, 2019 – Development Committee Recommendation
- December 17\textsuperscript{th}, 2019 - City Council Adoption
6th Street SW Corridor Area Action Plan Update
Development Committee
December 11, 2019
6th Street SW Area Action Plan

- Identified in EnvisionCR as a priority road for a Corridor Action Plan
- 6th Street SW from 1st Avenue to Highway 30
- Coordinates with upcoming Paving for Progress project, which will convert from 4 to 3 lanes and add sidewalks and bus stops
Since September

- Staff survey of neighborhood
- Focus Groups
  - North Area (Nov 16)
  - South Area (Dec 13)
- One on one meetings
Next Steps

• December 2019: Information gathering
• Winter 2019: Open House
  • Findings and Draft Goals
• Winter/Spring 2020: Second Open House
  • Goals and Action Steps
• Spring/Summer 2020: Plan Adoption
Zoning Advisory Group

• Five resident panel
  • BOA member
  • CPC member
  • Three individuals who use the code
• Assist staff in prioritizing code updates
• Less formal setting than City Planning Commission
Zoning Code Updates

Staff is drafting updates, prioritizing based on need and complexity

- **First Round**: High Priority/Low complexity
  - Public Hearing in February

- **Second Round**: High Priority/High Complexity
  - Prioritize based on discussions with ZAG
  - Public Hearing in late winter/early spring
Timeline

• December 16 – ZAG Meeting
  • Review cases to date
  • Overview of easier issues
  • Discuss priorities of more complex issues

• January 20 – ZAG Meeting
  • Review language for first round issues
  • Discuss issues and progress for second round

• January 23 – City Planning Commission

• February – City Council Public Hearing on first round updates
Questions?

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