

Notes February 2005

Heart of the City, Thursday, February 10, 2005 (Police Station)

Guest Speaker: Steve Grabow, UW-Ext. Jefferson Cty, speaker, Prof., Comm Dev. Edu <>

In Attendance:

Steve Tesmer, Beth Gehred, Pat Dreising, Lue Ehinger, Mary Gates, Leslie LaMuro, Ann Engleman., Citizen Clish, Jill Kessenich, Mary Linton, Kathy Kauffman, Kitty Welch

Discussion: Jeff. Cty. Land Legacy Initiative, how it fits together with our ideas for Greenbelt. Heart recognizes what happens on edge of community, how it relates to planning and quality of life

LLI read JS article, State DNR was studying future land acquisitions for parks; has stewardship funding. Several 100 Millions of dollars for state and local park areas. LL study was to provide guidance for allocating funds. Most money was spent up North, but Jeff. Cty. got money for Korth and D. Carnes park. Legislature triggered project. Wanted it to be a finite program, whereas DNR wanted it to be more comprehensive. Study was published a couple years ago. NE part of county, Bark River and Crawfish river were identified as Legacy places (4-5 sites). Grabow drafted letter to DNR to explain other ideas for strengthening plan. DNR was thrilled. Margaret Burlingham, a local planner and landscape architect was involved in conceptual plan. John Pullman from DNR saw possibilities in JC, too. The Western band of Jeff. Cty. given highest priority, because of resources, and also because of day-trip tourism potential.

In Sept. 2004, political action started. DNR wanted to visit w/ county officials. Bounded by Rock River on East, county line on West; could expand boundaries into Dodge and Dane counties w/ cooperative efforts. Jeff. Cty. plan identified a farm near Waterloo. This is high, forested land, where one can see Holy Hill, and would be a great mountain biking trail center; and Trek was approached about this. Hope Lake and Red Cedar Lake are near primitive; with federal land around it. A planning/ landscape student came up with a master plan for this area; passive recreation. County is in process of acquiring 250 acres adjacent to Dorothy Carnes park. Looking at developing different units, like Kettle Moraine State Park system. Could have passive use, state park-type camping, mountain biking, etc. Also want to come up with ways to link nodes, parkways, etc. Establish a real network.

Scoping document was created by DNR, describing what it's all about:

<> Protect series of units, consistent Goals

Growing county park system

Link several units with trail corridors

<> Focus on acquisition and development rights (working farms stay as is, etc). From tourism standpoint this is very attractive. Limit development to protect resources and natural habitats.

DNR doesn't want other strategies to get in way of development rights. Plan and feasibility study is projected to start in summer of 2005 and conclude by end of year. Development Consortium sees potential for vitality from tourism perspective. Must be careful to not oversell this as tourism, should serve people of county as well.

Fort is a gateway community to this region. The book 'The Rise of the Creative Class' was mentioned. Author of this book has said, for the 'new economy', if the community is positioned well for parks trails, etc., it will be more successful than those that are not.

Components to be included in expanded park system: camping, hiking, biking, cc-skiing, etc. Water-based recreation.

There is a need for refinement of the plan details, advocate for county board and city officials, not all of these people are on the board for Jeff. Cty. parks. These people sometimes need to be convinced that more parkland is a thing of value. There is a role for this group (Heart) to be one of many possible facilitators for this goal.

Grabow thinks a greenbelt concept for Fort could be one of the refinements for a plan like this. In the United States, greenbelts haven't been that widely employed. Countryside Farm project in Jeff. Cty. could possibly incorporate this with Traditional Neighborhood Design surrounded by a greenbelt. Initial concept was done in 1995, and updated in 2000. The Expressway bypass plan went right through this plan, but could still be incorporated into an overall plan. One of strongest principles in planning is to define the edge of a community. Greenbelt does this very well.

Case study: City outside of London, UK, surrounded by agricultural belt; considered it a greenbelt. The size of the town was 2 miles by 2 miles for 30,000 people. Overall the public good carries more weight than the private good; in Europe than in US. That's why Europe has been more effective at doing things like this than the US has been.

<>Examples in US or in state: Greendale, WI. Milw. County park has system. Economists say it encourages leapfrogging; One of Fort's concerns is town of Koshkonog. Urban service area or growth boundary area are limits of future development for a period of 50 years. 70 percent of new growth should be directed to these urban service areas.

Environmental Corridor; definition; wetlands, forest, hunting grounds, parks have a higher level of protection than other areas. There's a density requirement for building in woods; 1 house for every 10 acres. Jeff. Cty. is a sort of agricultural greenbelt; between Milwaukee and Madison. Think beyond a literal Greenbelt to introduce green wedges; in communities. These could work in radial patterns in community. Dorothy Carnes could be one of these. Someone mentioned that Heart needs to find the visioning maps that were worked on during the Walmart scare.

A new Master plan for Fort has to be done by 2010, but the current plans were done before the Smart Growth law was in effect. Margaret Burlinham might be a possible consultant to hire to help us develop a plan like this. Would there be grant money available for this? Good planning must have the of the citizens involvement, but there is also a place for experts in this process.

A Hwy 26 bikeplan committee has been convening. Potential routes from North/South between Milton and Watertown. Bike path should run right alongside bypass. This could also be integrated into the greenbelt plan.

<>Non-site specific concepts; ask ourselves:

What are special places

What are places of concern

Think about broad-based concepts

Think both in graphic and narrative terms

Value laden ideas <>

This kind of thinking leaves solution space open; sometimes one might take a different approach than originally thought

For aerial photos: contact Andy Erdman, Jeff. Cty. curator of photos in the County building. Or possibly Jeff Woods