

What exactly is Waukon Vision hoping to accomplish?

We are hoping to identify civic needs and wants. We will focus on concerns that are identified during the three community meetings on Sept. 25 2207. From there we will take those findings and create a vision for the future. This master plan will then be presented to the community to get feed back. Any feedback that we receive will be incorporated and presented.

What are the major focuses of the project?

That's hard to say at this moment. The community will be identifying what to focus on. A few ideas have been talked about, but nothing has been set in stone. One concern we heard from business owners is a lack of parking downtown. There also seemed to be some interest in beautifying the downtown to help create a new civic image.

What are the goals of this project?

The goals of the project are to help create a livable community while satisfying the needs of the community. Together we will identify short term goals and long term goals. Each goal will help to achieve the over all vision. The goals may change as other opportunities present themselves, or as funds become available. The idea is to have a plan, but not be blinded by it.

What kinds of unique or interesting features can we find in Waukon?

Waukon has lots of opportunities and interesting features. Currently the town is expanding it's high school, has an amazing park and aquatic center, a hospital, two clinics, room to grow, and is located in one of the most scenic parts of Iowa. Most of the 19th century facades are still intact or salvageable. We are planning a "building scavenger hunt" to help create awareness of the historic nature of the buildings in the downtown area. The city has a network of side walks which helps tie neighborhoods together and keep the city pedestrian friendly. This might not seem like a big deal to most citizens they just simply take the sidewalks for granted. If you travel to some of the new bedroom communities around larger metropolitan areas there are "Mc Mansions" everywhere but no sidewalks. The automobile rules the neighborhood, and it's pretty hard to have a conversation with someone in a car with their windows rolled up moving at 25 MPH. The social benefits of a side walk are only heightened by the mental & physical benefits as well. One interesting feature that I would like to know more about is the offset in downtown. I would like to know why or what cause the town to be laid out in such a fashion.

Why should property owners be concerned with preserving their buildings?

The simple answer is that conserving old buildings and neighborhoods makes a good community better. Waukon is blessed with a fine collection of older buildings and landmarks that are recognized and appreciated by the entire community. Historic preservation also has the potential to enhance the quality of life and economic well being of current and future residences. It helps preserve the character of the community, and helps portray the image of prosperity. A community that maintains their historic

presence while incorporating 21st century technologies has a better chance of leaving a lasting impression on visitors and its citizens.

What kind of suggestions are you guys looking for from the public?

That's the million dollar question. We have no idea what the community might want us to focus on. If I was to give you a suggestion, think of places you visited. Then try to identify the things that you liked about the place. Was it a pedestrian mall, the landscaping, the street poles, how you moved through the space. Then imagine those things in Waukon. Imagination will be a key part of this process. Other suggestions we would be looking for are things that seem to be lacking, or could be better.

Let's do the scavenger hunt for the next issue.