

**NE Iowa Food & Fitness Initiative
County Planning Team Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2007
4:00 pm, ISU Extension Office, Fayette**

Attendees: Deb Kahler, Joe Organist, Jennifer Ranheim, Donna Story, Maureen Johnson, Alice Moeller, Vicki Rowland, Scot Michelson, Sue Burrack, Richard Jensen, Dave Runyon, Sheryl Struthers, Richard Witt, Monica Enyart, Janell Bradley, Gary Richards, Christie Dennis, Mike VanSickle, Robin Seidel, Barb Ashby, Ashley Berg, Katie Elliott, Mary Erickson, Kata McCarville, Gale Bishop, Rod Marlatt, Ruth Schemmel, Karla Organist, Dan Burkhart, Brenda Ranum

1. Regional F & F Leadership Team Report:

- Group decided to go for the “Safe Routes to School” grant to use for a needs assessment survey. We will be able to include all of the schools in this proposal.
- The regional team was pleased to have the participation of the high school students, they really contributed a new perspective during the “Safe Routes to School” discussion.
- Met with the Kellogg Technical Assistance Program (T.A.P.) team. The team’s job is to find resources to assist us with our challenges.

2. Webcasts & Discussion:

“Mark Fenton on Walkable Communities” Our Key Points of Discussion:

- Benefits of walkable communities: Increase activity, more socializing, it’s like “safe routes to school” for everyone!
- Sidewalks, we have an issue county-wide here:
 - There are no policies (or even a consistent plan) requiring sidewalks in new development, or if there are, they are not being enforced or are being given a variance.
 - Existing sidewalks are in need of repair, but no one wants to foot the bill for repairs.
 - We need to use our political voice to let our elected officials know what is important to us.
 - Can we bring options to our elected officials?
 - Main Street West Union is bringing in a streetscape planner on October 9 to begin a community conversation on this very topic. Attendees will report back if relevant to our activities.
 - Maybe we need more safety reminders for drivers – a campaign of sorts.

“Assessment and Mapping Toolkit for Building a Healthier Community: Community Mapping Tools” Our Key Points of Discussion:

- We really felt that our whole county would benefit most from the walkable/bikeable community map, it could really show us what we have and how to go about connecting communities and counties.
- Can we add accessibility information on the mapping?
- The Environmental Barrier Mapping would be a good tool for community involvement, may be secondary to mapping the trails to determine the barriers we have.
- For the Trail Use Counter program – we thought that this wasn’t necessary at this point, it’s more important that people know what’s there. It also won’t tell you what kind of users utilize the trails.

3. Other items:

- There is a Food & Fitness overview CD now available at the Extension office to help spread the word about what we are doing. The presentation is also available online as a download or to view directly from the web. This is information that should be shared with local councils and at local community organization meetings – maybe the next time it's your turn to do the program!
- Coming soon: Well Workplace University. Our county will be choosing an additional site for this Workplace Wellness program (currently, Tap't Out Stein-n-Dine is participating with the initial program)
- As always, you can find all of the webcasts at the site: www.iowafoodandfitness.org

4. Next Meeting: October 18, 2007. 4:00 – 6:00 pm, ISU Extension Office, Fayette. Submitted by Karla Organist, September 24