

HBE Meeting

Tuesday, September 24, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

Community Health Facility, 200 Maine St., First Floor Conference

Attendees: Phil Collision, Lisa Larsen, Sally Pennington, Courtney Shipley, Chris Tilden, Gary Webber

Introduction: Participant introductions. Tilden welcomed participants, reviewed past HBE history and past initiatives and progress. LiveWell formed in 2008 and approached LDCHD for assistance in 2013. LDCHD agreed to help facilitate LiveWell. LiveWell participated in first Community Health Plan in 2013.

HBE formed in 2013 focusing on improving the built environment to promote physical activity. Major projects included Safe Routes to School and related programs, expansion of the trail systems in Douglas County, formation of the Multi-modal Transportation Commission, formation of Friends of Lawrence Area Trails, creation of the Sidewalk Hazard Mitigation Program, and lobbying for increased funding for both pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

Discussion: Pennington asked how Eudora should participate in HBE. Should they pursue their own objectives, or adopt the goals of HBE? Tilden replied that their participation was welcome, and HBE would support any Eudora or Baldwin City or Lecompton initiative.

Larsen asked if staff had reviewed the goals and investigated how the city could meet those goals, or even if the goals are reasonable. Tilden replied the MPO Regional Plan addressed this goal, but that no city evaluation has been performed.

Pennington asked if there were specific initiatives to achieve the goals. Tilden responded that goals had been set, but specific new initiatives had not been developed. Pennington was interested in lighting and extending the use of public space earlier in the morning and later at night. She mentioned the recent installation of solar lights along the Blue Jacket Trail.

Collision asked if the map of the Lawrence Loop had been improved since Charlie Bryan developed his first map. Tilden stated that the maps that have been developed are not designed for wayfaring.

Webber asked about the increases in access to bikeways and sidewalk gap filling goals. Are these reasonable goals? Can funding be found in the CIP to achieve them? He agreed with Larsen that if these goals are part of the Community Health Plan and to some extent part of Plan 2040

Collision asked if the county has a budget for bicycle infrastructure. Webber state the County does not have a bicycle infrastructure funding line but does improve shoulders when they improve county roads. Larsen stated that Douglas County paid for an easement on the Midland Railway. Tilden stated that some members of the County Commission are interested in discussing an open spaces plan and that bikeways could be a part of that discussion.

Collision asked in commuting routes could be a priority in addition to recreational trails. Tilden stated that SRTS may be a good way to go at this problem.

Adjourned at 7:52