



Eau Claire Area HIA Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

**Eau Claire County Courthouse, Room G034
Thursday, May 5th, 7:30-9:00am**

Present: Audrey Boerner, Bruce King, Darryll Farmer, David Klinkhammer, Grant Dvorak, James Dunning, Kathy Mitchell, Larry Studt, Lieske Giese, Mel Kantor, Ned Noel, Sara Carstens

1. Welcome & Introductions

- a. Introductions of HIA project team and committee members present were made around the room.

2. Advisory Committee Goals

- a. Audrey shared the Advisory Committee Collaboration Agreement with the group. This handout details the background and goals for the HIA, expectations of advisory committee members, and the process for making decisions within advisory committee meetings.

3. HIA Scoping Refresher & Scoping Data Review

- a. Audrey briefly presented to the group a refresher of the HIA process, purpose of the scoping step, and scoping data. This data included feedback from residents and business owners near the Cannery regarding the topics that they indicated would be important for the HIA to focus on.

4. Discussion: Using Data to Drive HIA Scope

- a. Audrey shared with the group a handout containing scoping topics developed at the February training. Topics were organized into three levels: individual, society, and built environment. After discussing the handout and scoping topics, Audrey broke large the group up into two smaller groups to discuss specific discussion questions relating to the Cannery/HIA. After 20 minutes of discussion, Audrey brought the small groups back together for discussion of answers and report-outs from each group. After each group shared answers, Audrey moved the group to a vote on the topics. Each committee member could vote using three sticky notes, and could place one per topic of their choice they felt was most important to be considered for scoping. Each committee member had three votes for each of their top 3 areas. The group did not have time to discuss the fourth question.

Discussion questions/answers:

- 1) What areas can the Cannery Redevelopment have the greatest impact on?
 - a. Social Cohesion
 - i. The group discussed that social cohesion is an overarching issue that relates to many potential scoping topics. It was discussed that this is an important topic for residents of the area, and for the greater community
 - b. Accessibility
 - i. Discussion centered on using the word in a general term, to include: physical access to/from the district, safe navigation of the district, access to parking opportunities, traffic and its effect on access to the district, pedestrian/bicycle safety, implications of access to/within the district for residents vs. visitors, ease of access to places within the district
 - ii. Access to food
 1. Group discussed example of having a grocery store being located across the bridge, but high traffic volume may create access, safety issues.
 - c. Housing/Gentrification
 - i. Concerns were expressed about redevelopment, income inequality, rental vs. home ownership rates in the area
 - ii. Housing development and its potential impacts on social cohesion
 - iii. The “multiplier effect” and root causes of topics: the group discussed the example of bringing newer housing stock into an older area. What other topics could trickle down and affect other topic areas? (What topics have the most potential to impact other topics?)
- 2) What topic areas are positive and should be maintained?
 - a. The group discussed “small town/area charm” as a topic that was brought up by some residents and business owners. The group questioned what the meaning of this term was by those who mentioned it. Possible ideas the group considered were:
 - i. Redevelopment making the area more active and “big city”-like
 - ii. Density of development and increased building story level
- 3) What topic areas are currently issues for the neighborhood?
 - a. Lead and soil around aging buildings

- b. Building quality issues
- c. Traffic
 - i. The group posed the question “What could be the implications of having increased traffic in this area?”
- d. Crime/poverty/homelessness
 - i. Meth police calls, number of police calls to the area in general
 - ii. The group noted there is crime all around the area...and asked “What does it mean for the Cannery Redevelopment and its success?”
- e. Residents have expressed fears of the District eventually expanding west

4) What topic areas are the most serious?

5. Dotmocracy: Vote on Top 3 Scoping Topics

- a. After discussion, each committee member was given three sticky notes to vote on three topics of their choice. Only one sticky note was allowed per topic.

Results:

- Housing development (with a focus on):
 - Gentrification
 - Aesthetics
 - Displacement
 - Income
- Social Cohesion/Relationship with Community
- Access
 - Aging
 - Food
 - Residents/Non-residents

6. Final Discussion & Wrap-Up

7. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 9:00am

Next meeting: Wednesday June 29th, 8-9:30 am

Location: Eau Claire County Courthouse, Room G034