



### **Brandon Garrett, CB Trails/Rails**



Brandon Garrett, Chief of Staff for the Mayor of Council Bluffs for the last 1.5 years, spoke about working on the First Ave – CB project and a potential rails system. The mission is to continuously improve the quality of life and attractiveness of the City of CB.

The First Ave – CB corridor is a possible part of a larger project that would be in conjunction with the larger metro area. Council Bluffs has a population of 62,000 but is part of a much larger metro area with over 1 million people. The metro area is expected to grow by 500,000 people over the next 30 years. Why? 1) Reinvestment in Offutt Air Force Base 2) UNMC's "NexT" project could raise 8700 new jobs, less than 3 miles west of CB. 3) Mutual of Omaha building new headquarters less than one mile from CB.

The corridor is proposed to be from the Nebraska Med Center to CHI and Jennie Edmundson Hospitals in Council Bluffs. In the future the trail could go to Iowa Western Community College area, then connect with a county trail that extends to Underwood.

Council Bluffs has prepared a 66 ft. wide path from the river to down town which is one block south of West Broadway going through the heart of the community where 2/3's of the population lives within half a mile of the trail. It is more than a trail, available for foot and bike traffic – flat and very accessible, available for recreation or traveling to work.

E bikes are available to rent. There is a Heartland Bike Share sponsor plaza at 25<sup>th</sup> St. across from TJ High School. The 14 ft. to 16 ft. trail is asphalt, the preferred surface of walkers and joggers with 2 ft. concrete shoulders. WiFi is free in the corridor. There are plazas every 3-4 blocks. Native plantings and trees of vibrant fall color have been planted. Lighting was a major investment along the trail. There are water

fountains, benches, and pedestals for future art sculptures.

Nationally there is an effort to develop a Great American Rail – Trail stretching from Wash. DC thru CB to Washington State. This may draw Europeans to travel across America on this trail. The National Geographic magazine has given this project national/international attention. Brandon stated this project can put us on the radar for larger companies.

Studies are being done on developing rail for a tram or street car. The trails corridor in CB has allowed space for rail. An Omaha/CB Urban Core meets to include CB in their plan. In CB the Dodge Park Golf course is the single largest development opportunity for this Core (130 acres) to develop housing and amenities. Of course, the big deal is a Multi-Modal bridge to cross the Missouri River.

The study includes whether the streetcar on rail would run on electricity and how, or use batteries, or perhaps be a hybrid. Part of the strategy would be upgrading the plazas into stations. This could result in a need for more amenities as people concentrate in these areas. It would be 10-20 years for a full buildout. The study has shown 30,000 new housing dwellings could be added and 6200 jobs created. Property tax valuation would increase.

Garrett stated that Iowa West gave a grant that paid for half of the trail. If the city doesn't decide to go forward with rails, other things can be done with the extra land in the corridor.

In conclusion, Brandon stated that if CB is going to grow, we need to lay down the urban structure and prepare for the metro becoming a bigger city. CB can try to take advantage of what is happening in Omaha. Our location is closer to downtown Omaha than the residential part of Omaha. Our First Ave project and the location of Dodge Park offer great opportunities.

More info can be found on 1) Podcast: On First, 2) [www.FirstaveCB.com](http://www.FirstaveCB.com), 3) Call Brandon at 712-890-5268, 4) email Brandon at [Bbgarrett@councilbluffs-ia.gov](mailto:Bbgarrett@councilbluffs-ia.gov)

---

### Next week's Speaker:

**Brian Shea, Chm. Pott Co. Board of Supervisors**

---

### Famous Quote

**"See the miraculous in the commonplace."**

**Henry David Thoreau**

---

### Meeting Minutes

Dale Willenborg called the meeting to order and led the pledge. Nineteen members were present. Our guests were speaker Brandon Garrett and Scott Hawkinson.

Dale Willenborg offered the prayer.

Keith Denton, Bill Vorthmann, and Jeff Jorgensen shared jokes.

**50/50:** Steve Chambers won.

**Attendance:** Judy Gutttau won.

**Birthdays:** We celebrated Dale Willenborg's 71<sup>st</sup> birthday.

**Anniversaries:** Steve and Jeanie Chambers celebrated their 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Bragging Rights:** (Dollars are contributed to benefit local youth programs.)

- Dee Gutttau bragged on driving safely over 3000 miles even though the traffic was bad in Seattle.
- Gary Gutttau stated when he was young he saw a news reel of Devil's Tower so he built a Devil's Tower in the sand box at school and got in trouble for saying the word "Devil"!
- Dick Fox stated there were a family of four foxes in their neighborhood.
- Keith Denton bragged on his granddaughter Lily setting the record for the mile at St. Albert. She is a freshman.
- Kirk Vorthmann commented that since Steve Chambers talked about having a short honeymoon, it reminded him that his great grandma (Lydia Vorthmann) married the hired boy, who became the hired man. They married on the farm, and the wedding

reception was in the alleyway of the old corn crib, which is still standing and the hogs were sleeping in the lean-to at that time.

- Judy Gutttau bragged on Ken Graham who is retiring as our Sergeant of Arms Oct. 1. Kevin Underwood, Marsha Underwood and Keith Denton also donated.
- Dale Willenborg contributed because they went on a trip to North Carolina to visit a grandson who is on a 2 year mission and also to Georgia for a doctor appointment.
- Bill Vorthmann contributed in memory of David Linehan, a neighbor who died. He was a Vietnam veteran who lived in the Senior Citizens apartments and had no family. Bill had enjoyed visiting with him and had taken him to Veterans Hospital to meet with an oncologist. He declined treatment.
- Jeff Jorgensen contributed because Richard Vorthmann was responsible for him becoming a member. His wife had noted Richard's license plate stated RALV. He told her those were his initials: Richard Abraham Lincoln Vorthmann. Bill stated his dad was born on President Lincoln's birthday.

### Community:

1. The Council Bluffs Optimist Club is hosting a fundraiser on Sun., July 9 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. "Classics on the Water" 6865 Gifford Road, CB. It will be a non-judged Show n' Shine of classic cars and the Pancake Man will begin serving at 10 AM. Free will donations will go to support the CB Optimist Club.
2. Treynor Days is June 23-25. The Thursday before (June 22) from 4-6 PM and the Tuesday after (June 27) from 2-4 PM will be Kite Flying Days at "The T". Elementary students were presented with free kites from the Treynor Optimists. Their art teacher had them decorate the kites and then sent home directions to assemble. Kids/parents, bring your kites and fly! All people who want to fly kites are invited!!

### Business:

1. Can Kennel sorting report: It was the largest sorting to date as there were three sortings in 4 weeks. Home Depot donated 5 boxes of rolls of bags.

2. WestFair – We've been asked to help with the gates one day from 2-5 PM.
3. John Klein stated the hydrant sprayers the Optimists built will be used for the kids after Bingo during Treynor Days as well as for a block party in Treynor Sept. 17
4. Flags will be left up until July 8 to cover all holidays and Treynor Days.
5. The Optimists have been asked to lead Bingo again during Treynor Days. Jordan will lead the kid area.
6. To date \$7610 has been received for flags. Thank you, community. This money is used to sponsor scholarships for seniors.
7. Monday, June 26 our club along with many other Optimist clubs in the metro area are invited to join the Riverside Optimist Club at the Carson Community Center at 6:30 p.m. for a catered meal (free will offering). Please RSVP to 712-310-6379.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned with the saying of the Creed.

---

## HUMOR

**One thing no one ever talks about when it comes to being an adult is how much time we debate keeping a cardboard box because it's, you know.... A really good box!**

---

## Calendar

### Events

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| June 22    | Kids/Parents/Anyone Fly Kites 6-8 PM at The T   |
| June 23-25 | Treynor Days  |
| June 26    | Optimist Clubs from the metro area are invited to join the Riverside Optimist Club at the Carson Community Center – 6:30 PM |
| June 27    | Kids/Parents/Anyone Fly Kites 2-4 PM at The T   |
| July 8     | Take down flags.  |

### Birthdays

- |         |                |
|---------|----------------|
| June 20 | Jeff Jorgensen |
|---------|----------------|

### Anniversaries

- |         |                     |
|---------|---------------------|
| June 28 | Mick & Judy Guttau  |
| June 29 | Dave & Linda Danker |

### Programs:

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| June | Jeff Jorgensen (last 2)                          |
| July | Chad Gutttau                                     |
| Aug  | Jim Clausen (first 2)<br>Bill Vorthmann (last 2) |

### Speakers

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| June 24 | Brian Shea, Chm. Pott Co. Board of Supervisors |
|---------|--|

Editor: Judy Gutttau, [judy.gutttau@tsbg.com](mailto:judy.gutttau@tsbg.com), 402-670-4330. Contributor: Dee Gutttau, John Klein  
 Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 51575