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Travis Castle speaks about VTG



L-R: Travis Castle, Doug Wehring

Travis Castle gave an update at the Optimist Meeting today about Vision Treynor Group (VTG). A small group of citizens first gathered in June, 2010 to discuss what amenities were needed in Treynor that could facilitate public and private partnerships to improve the community and surrounding area.

From 2010-2014, a survey was launched, a master plan developed, a capital fundraising campaign developed, and 63 acres of rugged land north of Zion Congregational Church Cemetery was purchased.

From 2014-2016 VTG seized the opportunity to develop a fitness center in the old grocery store, which was one of the survey's expressed needs. Today with 200 members and good volunteers, the fitness center is chugging along.

In 2017-2020 the focus was on getting the land to grade, installing a temporary gravel entry and parking lot, planting of grass in two fields and installing a fully functioning irrigation system. The VTG also extended a water main in conjunction with the City of Treynor from Hwy 92 down to the property.

The VTG board is made up of Doug Wehring, Scott Reelfs, Norm Collins, and Travis Castle. Vision Treynor Group's desire is to create a multi-generational multi-use gathering space which will be an asset for residents of Treynor and rural Pott. Co. In addition to ball fields, a possible partnership is in process with the Splash Pad committee to add this facility within a 1-acre area to the complex as well as the trail head for Tristin's Walking Trail and an all-inclusive park. In future phases, it is hoped that the land to the east of the parking lot can be developed into a Gathering Area including family picnic areas as well as other recreational activities.

Currently VTG is in Phase II and the goals are to complete grant applications with the help of Lisa Fox, Fox Creek Fundraising, and to establish a structure to operate and monetize the project. Iowa West Foundation has recently announced a grant of \$175,000 for the recreational center, known as "The T" to help with the current phase of being operational.

The immediate goals are: A) build out Little League Field #1. B) build a concessions/rest room/maintenance building, C) establish multi-purpose field equipment – goals, benches, bleachers, etc. and D) develop utilities and sidewalks. The price tag for this phase is \$511,000. The Iowa West grant represents 34% of the project which equals \$175,000. To receive the full \$175,000 grant, the remaining \$336,000 will need to be raised in one year by April 2022. The group is hopeful to receive another \$75,000 from grants from other foundations and additional funds derived from corporate giving, events, and a future capital campaign potentially this fall.

For now, Travis stated, infrastructure and foundational work need to be done; auxiliary pieces will come later. Part of the foundational work includes forming organizational teams that run the facility: youth sports, facilities, events, fundraising, and community outreach. The Steering Committee is currently updating design of the building in B. above, as well as costs of C. above. A larger planning committee was meeting after the Optimist meeting today.

Next week's speaker is Joe Chapman who will speak about his business Cattle Drive and the Treynor Girls BB Team.

Meeting Minutes

Jordan Campbell, Vice President, called the meeting to order at the Treynor Community Building. Present were 18 members and 3 guests, Travis Castle, Doug Wehring and Nicole Reed.

Jordan Campbell led the Pledge of Allegiance and Dee Guttau gave the opening prayer.

Keith Denton and Gary Funkhouser provided humor. Judy Guttau won the 50/50 drawing. Jim Clausen won the attendance drawing.

Birthdays/Anniversary: None.

Jordan Campbell shared that on this day Quentin Tarantino and Randall Cunningham are 58, Mariah Carey is 50, and Fergie from Black Eyed Peas is 46. Also on this day the first Men's NCAA Tournament was in 1939. The first Women's NCAA Tournament was in 1982. However, it was pointed out the AACU sponsored tournaments earlier than that and that our own Gail Hartigan was an All-American.

Jordan also announced that on this day in 1998 FDA approved Viagra and there were \$1B in sales the first year. The first Presidential Candidate to market it was Bob Dole.

Community:

The group was reminded that if anyone was interested in the book signing by Sara Broers, author of Midwest Road Trip Adventures, at Eckels Memorial Library in Oakland, it is Monday, March 29 from 9:30 – 11 AM. There will be coffee samples and an opportunity to win give-aways.

Bragging Rights: (\$ to fund youth activities)

Phil Waggoner contributed to announce the Girls Track Team had their first meet in Atlantic and did very well and the boys did well in their first at Underwood last week. Gary Funkhouser donated to announce that NW Missouri State is playing West Texas State in the finals of the Class 2 Basketball Tournament. Hawkins from Atlantic has been the biggest scorer. Gary Gutttau contributed because he has returned to working as a docent at the Henry Doorly Zoo. Mick Gutttau donated to share that a lot of Treynor kids in college sports were lauded on KMA radio this morning. Tori Castle was one who did well in her first college meet running the 5000.

Old/New Business:

Gary Gutttau reported that Glenwood picked up the cans on Wednesday from the Boy Scouts. The JOI Club sorting is planned for Wed. at 2 PM. (Shelly contacted me with the time after the meeting.) Gary presented a check of \$60.35 to Bill Vorthmann to help with transportation costs of hauling glass to Atlantic. Since discovering LE Smash in Omaha, groups will be encouraged to take their glass there (once sorted at the can kennel). Gary has 14 bags of plastics which he plans to haul this week.



Jordan presented a check for \$927 from the Optimist Can Kennel to Nicole Reed on behalf of the Treynor cheerleaders. She stated the money would be used for new cheerleader uniforms which are replaced every five years.

L-R. Nicole Reed and Jordan Campbell

Auction: Kirk Vorthmann donated a book, which was purchased by Keith Denton. Computer bags were donated by Gary Funkhouser which were purchased by Gary and Chad Gutttau. A total of \$8 was raised.

The meeting was closed with the Optimist Creed.

HUMOR

When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the fire department usually uses water!

Calendar

Mar. 31 Can Kennel - 2 PM

Birthdays

Apr 20 Steve Chambers
Apr 24 Linda Danker
Apr 25 Irvin Saar
Apr 28 Gene Seran

Anniversaries

Apr 7 Jim & Diane Clausen

Programs

April Phil Waggoner (first two)
Open (last two)
May Steve Irwin (first two)
Dale Willenborg (last two)

Speakers

April 3 Joe Chapman, Cattle Drive & Treynor HS Girls BB Coach
April 10 Lisa Fox, Fox Creek Fundraising

Dee Gutttau contributors

Judy Gutttau, judy.gutttau@tsbg.com, 402-670-4330

Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 51575