



2018 Community Contributions

The Down Town Revitalization grant is proceeding. The DTR Committee along with Mandi from NENED met with the three planning firm finalist for a presentation about their proposals. The scoring was completed and was submitted to the Village Council for their approval. JEO was approved as the planning firm and were notified in February. The kick off meeting was held in May with 8 people present. As requested, the Densil Christiansen benches will remain on Main Street.

****UPDATE**** We had a meeting with JEO at the end of July. This meeting focused on the beautification sector of the planning options. It was decided that we should host a meeting for all business owners / land owners in the planning area to show them the planning ideas. I worked extensively to reach out to all land owners in the DTR area. The meeting was held in late August with more than 20 business owners in attendance. This was a great meeting with good input from the Community. The Town Hall meeting held for the entire community on September 4, 2018 had a pretty good turn out with 25 members of the community attending. The comment board received some strong feelings toward the removal of the Bump Outs. Other items that were seen as a needed project were the façade improvements; Main Street lighting; new sidewalks; and street beautification. After our Town Hall Meeting several members of the committee went to Wayne to review what they had done with sidewalks / lighting / etc. in their Main Street area. Research was also completed on sidewalk renovations / curb & gutter / NDOR data / handicap accessibility etc. The DTR Committee met in late September and made a prioritized list that was sent to JEO for a draft proposal to be compiled. These were sent in early October but have not yet been received in Pender. Once we have those and they are reviewed JEO will be on hand for a question/concern session to move forward with the plan.

I (Diann) was asked to write a grant for the Thurston Ball Field. The field is used for over flow of practice for the youth of Pender / Thurston, and also for adult softball league. However, there is no outfield fencing and the sideline fencing is dilapidated. Travis Dunn and Zach Johnson assisted with quotes and needed materials; I secured a local company to provide the Quikrete for the poles to be set and we have multiple local volunteers to install the fence. A grant for the materials only was submitted to the Main Street Thriftique. A donation of \$250 was received and will be used to help pay for the fencing.

The CDBG grant for Thurston is going quite well. The Planning & Zoning Commission were appointed and have had two meetings since April. They reviewed and approved the Comp Plan and Housing study, these were approved by ordinance at the June Village Board meeting. The Subdivision regulations have been reviewed and updated, the zoning regulations are underway with the Village Attorney making recommendations.

****UPDATE****The Thurston Planning & Zoning Committee has approved the Zoning Regulations, the Subdivision Regulations, the Fee Schedule, and the Zoning Map. We have almost everything reviewed through the Village Council. We have completed much of this project with the annexation plats being next on the agenda.

Ray Welsh, Jason Dolliver, and Diann all participated with the Behavioral / Mental Health Focus group as Pender representatives. We had our first meeting in mid-January. This went really well

and was well attended. We had a conference call in early February to discuss how each representative can add to this group. We would like to see more focus put on this occupation at the secondary level; more scholarships; potential to work with the Foundation; housing assistance for professionals that locate here, etc. Also as part of this outreach, Pender will be hosting a First Aid for Mental Health class. The Chamber has agreed to host the event with sponsoring the room at the Community Center. Frontier Bank will be providing lunch. The class will be held on July 25th here in Pender from 8am until 5pm. Registration forms and flyers have been sent to businesses.

****UPDATE**** The First Aid for Mental Health Class was held on July 25. We had 9 participants attend the full day training. The training was very informative and will hopefully assist all of the businesses that sent employees to be trained.

A contract has been signed with Hanna:Keelan to complete a new Housing Study and Comp Plan for the Village of Pender. Work will begin in July.

New additions:

The Thurston County Law Enforcement Center landscaping project is moving along. We met with Rachel from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum in late July. She did a site inspection and approved our project for completion at the end of 2019. Since we have only spent about half of the allotment I will be asking for reimbursement for the first piece this year and then the final piece when the project is complete. Leonard hopes to get the seeding done this fall. Several trees and plants are being replaced due to the flood. Additional trees will be added because we have funds to spend.

Diann worked with Michael Francis and Terry Mailloux on a Red Cross safety program. This program would allow all residents in the Pender / Thurston area to receive free smoke detectors. The Pender Volunteer Fire Department will be installing these to ensure they are properly installed with batteries and fully functional. Terry should have received the shipment already; press releases were sent to the Pender Times and also placed on Face Book. Connie Miller will be compiling the list of interested residents and will be in communication with the Fire Department for placement.