

Citizens discuss strategic plan

BY ANDI WATKINS DAVIS
Staff Reporter

Kirksville community members gathered Tuesday night to review the Kirksville-Adair 2012 Community Strategic Plan.

The open forum was an informal opportunity for community members to express concerns and make suggestions about the document.

The Community Strategic Plan is a comprehensive plan that addresses business, community and governmental aspects of the Kirksville community, said Nate Walker, Governmental Affairs Committee chair.

The plan is a vision statement for the community and a plan of action, Walker said. Any organizations or citizens in the community can view the finished document and work toward implementing the goals stated in it.

The Governmental Affairs Committee headed the process of updating the strategic plan, which last was revised during 2003, Walker said. Many of the goals stated in the 2003 document were accomplished through community involvement and work on many levels during the last nine years.

Subcommittees and specific community meetings have worked on the 2012 plan throughout the last several months, he said. The last part of the process is to allow community members to review the document.

"Any plan is never completely done until we allow everybody to have an input," Walker said. "[The] forum is to allow that input of the citizens."

City Manager Mari Macomb-

er said the event was a success and had an impressive turnout. Attendees expressed concerns about city trails, pedestrian walk ways and cycling, she said.

Written comments left by community members included suggestions about the bicycle education and enforcement program and livable streets policy included in the plan.

Kirksville resident Elsie Gaber said she attended the forum because she thinks it is important for community members to participate in improving the community as a whole.

"When there are dwindling resources, the best resource you can have is people arriving at an agreed-upon strategic plan and how they're going to get the job done," Gaber said.

She wanted to share her opinions about the Kirksville Forest Lake Area Trail System in relation to goals expressed in the strategic plan. FLATS' goal is to build a bicycling and walking trail from Downtown Kirksville to Thousand Hills State Park, Gaber said.

Gaber said she thinks improvements in walking and biking trails in Kirksville will improve the overall health of the community. She said she visited tables at the forum for the health and human services as well as the recreation and leisure services sections of the plan.

Kirksville resident Andy Grimm said he visited the human health and services table as a representative of the region's federal qualified community health center. Grimm said he thinks it is important to look at all options for eliminating barriers that prevent people from getting quality health



Kirksville residents discuss changes to the Health and Human Services section of the Kirksville-Adair 2012 Strategic Plan. Lindsey Gillam/Index

care. He said rural areas specifically have higher health disparities because citizens don't have access to that quality care.

"I think what the Kirksville Community Strategic Plan is trying to address is that we can't be most productive economically if we don't have a workforce that can afford and access quality healthcare," Grimm said.

Grimm said in his suggestions at the human health and services table that there is a need for an annual or biennial comprehensive health assessment for the community. He said using a third party such as Truman State could allow that to happen.

Grimm said he thinks the plan adequately addresses most of the needs of the Kirksville area.

Macomber said attendees made suggestions and comments at all 10 of the tables representing plan sections. She said the next step is to gather the comments made at the forum and make adjustments to the plan based on the community input. The revised

document then will be taken back to the original committees for review and be presented to Kirksville entities, such as the City Council, for approval and support, Macomber said.

The revised plan incorporating community suggestions should be ready to be presented to community organizations for approval by April, Macomber said. Citizens have the next two weeks to view the document online and make comments about it, she said.

The Social Justice Council members

Environmental Campus Organization

GlobeMed

PRISM

Truman in Africa

Bike Co-op

Hablantes Unidos

Students for Social Change

Women's Resource Center

Community Garden Club

Amnesty International

Habitat for Humanity

Clubs unite for social justice

Student organizations team up to form a social justice council

BY BLAISE HART-SCHMIDT
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Members of various organizations on campus are coming together to create the Truman State University Social Justice Council, a group that will help students network and work together to solve local issues, council co-founder senior Katie Stark said.

A similar council started several years ago but dissipated soon after, Stark said. Last semester she and her roommate senior Alex Senger decided to bring it back, and have invited

the leaders of social justice-oriented organizations across campus to join. The organizations include Environmental Campus Organization, Students for Social Change, PRISM, GlobeMed, Habitat for Humanity, Hablantes Unidos and more. Stark said the council is inviting organizations to join.

Stark likened the board to the InterFraternity Council. While students don't join the IFC as a club, she said, executives from each fraternity join to represent their organizations and work together toward similar goals.

One of the council's main goals is to create a master calendar and advertisements for the events promoted by member organizations. The group also is drafting a mission state-

ment and brainstorms at meetings to come up with ideas for the future, Stark said.

Because it is not yet recognized by Truman, the council does not have any funding, she said. Stark said members don't want to have titles such as president or vice president, terms that are mandatory of CSI chartered organizations, so the group might apply to be a part of the SERVE Center.

Senger said the biggest benefit of this organization will be the networking among the groups.

"This gives the opportunity with so many groups that are similar but have a divergent interest the opportunity to specialize, and people in other groups can see what's going on and participate," he said.

Senger said another goal of the council is to get all the groups together to create a big social justice event, he said. The council is spreading information through its Facebook page and eventually hopes to have the calendar featured on the Truman website.

Junior GlobeMed member Kyle Labelle attended his first Social Justice Council meeting last week and said he thinks joining will help both GlobeMed and other organizations on campus with similar goals.

"A goal would be to work with these groups collaboratively for different events on campus, so that social justice as an idea, while it can take all different forms, can unify people and bring campus together," he said.

Sheriff's office loses \$81k

BY JACKIE KINEALY
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The Adair County Commissioners Office submitted the finalized \$1.8 million sheriff's budget for 2012 to the state yesterday, an amount \$81,000 less than last year.

One disagreement during budget negotiations between Adair County Sheriff Robert Hardwick and the Commissioner's office was how to pay deputies for extra hours at work.

Hardwick said he wanted to continue to reimburse deputy overtime with time off, but the county wanted deputies to be paid for overtime and holiday hours instead.

In the end, the final budget for this year did not include \$130,000 for deputy overtime, Hardwick said. The sheriff's department will continue to pay comp time for 2012, he said, and he doesn't know whether that will change during 2013.

The commissioner's office heard back today from the state that it received the budget, and the sheriff's department can start operating under the 2012 numbers, County Clerk Sandy Collop said.

"We're good for business," she said.

Of the sheriff's budget, half goes toward jail operations, including meals and health care for inmates, and half to office operations, including deputies' salaries, according to the sheriff's office website.

Funding includes the general sales tax, the Law Enforcement Sales Tax, prisoner board bills, grants and carryovers from the previous year, according to the website.

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