

**City of Decorah Community Betterment Committee Meeting  
Monday, March 19, 2018 – 7:15pm.**

*(immediately following the regular city council meeting)*

The City of Decorah Community Betterment Committee met on Monday, March 19, 2018 at 7:15pm. Chairman Johanna Bergan called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Ross Hadley, Steve Luse and Randy Schissel. Others in attendance: Mayor Lorraine Borowski, Andy Carlson, Dan Bellrichard and Kirk Johnson. City Manager Chad Bird, City Clerk Wanda Hemesath, Lindsay Erdman, Andy Nimrod, and Chopper Albert were also in attendance.

**Agenda**

Discussion of the proposal from the Decorah Community School District on a new elementary school building site

*Bergan opened the meeting and asked for the committee to engage in discussion regarding the school district's proposal.*

*Schissel noted that he is still concerned about the ball fields and wants to continue to look at other options. He wondered where the city will grow overall and generally.*

*Bergan stated she appreciates all the work that has done into the discussion and realizes the amount of time and effort to get to this point. She noted that it appears the school is considering their interests and she wondered who is looking at the city's interests.*

*Hadley would like to see some professional architect or consultant draft some general concepts and ideas for further review. He noted this should be completed with an eye to streets, parks, open spaces, etc.*

*Johnson discussed the financial aspects of the proposal and said the \$700,000 offered by the District doesn't seem to be enough to cover the city's costs for relocation. Carlson agreed with this statement and added the costs to relocate the tennis courts.*

*Luse expressed concern that the council and community develop a plan that looks out 50 – 75 years and includes the downtown district in the conversation. He also thought the city had already said "no" to a downtown school site so was confused by the new proposal.*

*Hadley asked about engaging the school in the April 5 visioning meeting. Bergan expressed concerns about the size and scope of the April 5 meeting and worried that it will be too large to get anything accomplished.*

*Hadley also noted he would like to see more visual materials on the concepts.*

*Bellrichard wondered what visual planning may look like and asked about considering other sites in the community.*

*Johnson discussed relocation of city facilities, ball fields and tennis courts and noted it is a complex problem.*

*There was a discussion about developing a task force that would review options and concerns.*

*The committee reached consensus about bringing in the Planning & Zoning Commission for further discussions. Bird noted he would work with Bergan and the Mayor on scheduling a meeting to review the plan.*

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.  
Respectfully submitted,

