

March 2013 Mayor's Report

I have been tracking bill **HF #184** introduced by the Judiciary Committee in the Iowa House of Representatives Feb. 12 that prohibits cities from enforcing residential rental property occupancy restrictions. If adopted, this legislation would prevent University Heights from enforcing the "no more than 2 unrelated persons" restriction of the zoning ordinance. I emailed Rep. Sally Stutsman and Rep. Mary Mascher on Feb. 16th about the bill's status and how it would affect University Heights. Rep. Mary Mascher returned my call today to say the bill is **still alive**. She said that Sen. Joe Bolkom and Sen. Bob Dvorksy are working in the Senate to try to stop it if it comes. She said, it would be helpful to have everyone and anyone to contact other counties throughout the state, especially republican counties, and explain how this would not be a good situation for cities located near colleges. Let's discuss this further at the meeting.

I am continuing to research the possibility of a Farmer's Market in University Heights. I will have more information soon and will include in my April report.

Below is a list of my meetings, please contact me if you want more information.

Feb. 19th – Attended the Emergency 911 Board Meeting- Highlights: approval of the FY2014 Budget. There was discussion about radios for the smaller fire departments.

Feb. 26th – Attended the Conference Board Meeting- Highlights: approval of the FY2014 Budget. Discussion included a merit raise for the county assessor, Bill Greazel.

Feb. 26th- Attended RTBC- Regional Trail and Bicycle Committee- Highlights: City of Tiffin is part of a pilot program by Schwinn USA for renting of bicycles. This pilot should start this Spring/Summer in Tiffin. City of Iowa City submitted its renewal application for Bicycle Friendly Community designation last month. Updated Metro Area Trail Maps will be distributed in April to our city hall, I will bring some to the next meeting. The trail and bike route signs throughout the communities will be ready for spring installation. University Heights will have approx. 11 signs. I reported that our zoning commission was currently looking into the issue of bicycle parking throughout the city.

Feb. 27th- Emergency Management Committee- I was out of town and want to thank Lt. Matt Fort, who served as my alternate. Highlights: JECC is looking into changing from Code Red to WENS (Wireless Emergency Notification System) in May as it has more features and is less expensive. The Johnson County Dive Team has 9 members and is currently finishing more training. The EMA staff is continuing to work on grant planning.

March 12th - MPO-TTAC (Transportation Technical Advisory Committee) meeting is scheduled. I will give a report in April.