2012 ANNUAL MEETING
Promoting responsible development that conserves and protects our natural resources; revitalizes our neighborhoods, towns and cities; and improves the quality of life for future generations.

If You Preserve It, They Will Come
Historic Preservation in Iowa

Annual Meeting Agenda

9:00 – 9:15 a.m. Registration and Coffee, Ballroom
9:15 – 9:30 a.m. Welcome by 1000 Friends of Iowa Board President Mary Ellen Miller
9:30 – 10:00 a.m. History and Story Behind the Historic Park Inn Hotel
10:00 – 10:45 a.m. “Historic Park Inn Hotel Restoration Project”
10:45 – 11:00 a.m. Break
11:00 – 12:00 p.m. Tour Historic Park Inn Hotel
12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch and Annual Business Meeting
1:00 – 2:00 p.m. 2012 Best Development Awards
2:00 – 2:15 p.m. Break
2:15 – 2:30 p.m. Walk “Cultural Crescent” to Mason City Public Library Commons
2:30 – 3:15 p.m. “Mason City Public Library Restoration Project”
3:15 – 3:30 p.m. Walk “Cultural Crescent” through historic Rock Glen (Prairie School homes)
3:30 – 4:00 p.m. Architectural Interpretive Center (Mason City Prairie School house models)
4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Stockman House (only Wright designed middle class home actually built) Tour of Stockman House led by Joanne Hardinger, AIC Director
Adjourn

Acknowledgements

Office Space
1000 Friends of Iowa appreciates the generous contribution of office space from the Merle Hay Mall Corporation, arranged by 1000 Friends of Iowa Board Member Elizabeth Holland.

2012 Annual Meeting
The Historic Park Inn Hotel staff, particularly Mellisa Leach, helped tremendously with planning the event and facilitating catering. Sue Fisher assisted with planning the tours and helped with a social hour Friday evening. 1000 Friends greatly appreciates all the work and generosity of both the hotel staff and volunteers!

1000 Friends of Iowa Members
1000 Friends of Iowa is member supported and could not operate without the generosity of people like you!

Non-profits are fueled by passion, volunteers and financial support. The passion of our volunteers is exhibited in their willingness to donate their time, talent and energy to the mission.

Without the continued financial support of our members, 1000 Friend’s work to promote responsible land use would not be possible.

Thank you to each of our members and volunteers for your continued support!

Board of Directors

Mary Ellen Miller, President
Mason City
Mary Ellen Warren, Vice President
Waterloo
Erwin Klaas, Treasurer
Ames
LaVon Griffieon, Secretary
Ankeny
Doug Adamson, Des Moines
Dale McKinney, Sioux City
Mary Brubaker, Des Moines
Elizabeth Holland, Chicago
Laurie Belin, Windsor Heights
Ed Cox, Des Moines
Drake Larsen, Ames

Advisory Council

Gordon Mills, Dubuque
Ed Fallon, Des Moines
David Hurd, Des Moines
Stu Huntington, Ames
Fred Kirschenmann, Ames
Lee Kline, Des Moines
Andy McKeen, Anamosa
Jon Muller, Des Moines
Jay Howe, Greenfield

2011 Staff

Crystal Leto
A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD  PRESIDENT

"Sometimes things have to just get worse before they can get better."

"There is something good to be found in even the worst of times."

These expressions were often heard during my grandparents’ time. I ponder these old adages as I review this past year at 1000 Friends of Iowa. We understand that people make thoughtful choices as to where to spend their philanthropic monies and are grateful for those who continue to support our efforts, even in these “worst of times.” Our country’s economic recession has been a real challenge for small non-profits such as ours but I am glad to report that we have survived its depths and are now seeing many former members rejoining our cause. It is heartening to receive these repeated endorsements of our mission. It remains important that Iowans learn of the sustainable, life and economic enhancing alternatives to urban sprawl, monoculture row cropping, auto-dependent transportation systems and tear-it-down mentalities.

Two more examples of the “better” that can come out of the “worse” are our recent experiences with too much, and too little water, in Iowa. As recovery strategies were developed in response to the floods of 2008, Smart Planning Principles were added to the Iowa code. This year’s extreme drought has seen renewed interest in the old practice of using cover crops to preserve moisture and save top soil. And rain barrels, common place during our state’s settlement in the 1800s, have seen a big resurgence in popularity.

More globally, the concern surrounding food insecurity and the carbon footprint required to ship food long distances has seen renewed interest in the old practice of using cover crops to preserve moisture and save top soil. And rain barrels, common place during our state’s settlement in the 1800s, have seen a big resurgence in popularity.

Natural and economic disasters. Our grandparents would be pleased that we even gained some ground (pun intended) in our natural areas, and revitalize our neighborhoods and communities.

Our annual Best Development Awards contain wonderful examples of sustainable land use practices and celebrate Iowa’s unique qualities and strengths. Of course, there is still much work to be done and we remain committed to uniting Iowans in efforts to preserve our precious soils, protect our natural areas, and revitalize our neighborhoods and communities.

I thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to 1000 Friends of Iowa and, yes, I can even be thankful for the advocacy our land use issues have received from these recent natural and economic disasters. Our grandparents would be pleased that we even gained some ground (pun intended) in these “worst of times.”

In your service,

Mary Ellen Miller

2011 Annual Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2011
Greenfield, IA

Meeting called to order at 2:07 p.m. by President Mary Ellen Miller

Secretary, LaVon Griffieon moved for approval of the 2010 annual meeting minutes. Seconded by Mary Brubaker, motion carries.

Mary Ellen Miller publicly thanked Crystal LeTo, 1000 Friends of Iowa Office Manager for her efforts to make the annual meeting possible and her work throughout the year as our only staff member.

Mary Brubaker moved to nominate three new board members. This was seconded by Janet Klaas. Motion carries.

Laura Belin moved the slate of new board members Lynn Laws, Des Moines, Drake Larsen, Ames and Ed Cox, Columbia, MO. Mary Brubaker seconds motion. Motion carries.

Mary Klaas reported on land use developments in Ames, including: Getting Roosevelt School added to the National Register of Historic Places, Bucky Wolford’s strip mall project went bankrupt and has been purchased by Dennis Ewold and Ruerter’s Implement. The Sewer extension agreement went with the land. The Ames Sustainability Task Force gave a report and recommendations to the city. While well received by city staff, the council wants no further action from the Task Force. The RC&D helps facilitate watershed management, they have been primary stakeholders in the Prairie By-Way and economic development along the high trestle trail. The RC&D has built each class in a raised bed garden. Teachers report behavior changes in the 250 students.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Submitted by LaVon J. Griffieon, Secretary

2012 Annual Meeting

2012 Annual Meeting

Financial Report

As of December 31, 2011

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings 1000 • MetaBank $28,928.91
Total Checking/Savings $28,928.91

Other Current Assets 1200 • Undeposited Funds $1,570.00
Total Other Current Assets $1,570.00

Total Current Assets $30,498.91

TOTAL ASSETS $30,498.91

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities 2400 • Payroll Liabilities $162.80
Total Current Liabilities $162.80

Total Liabilities $162.80

Equity

3000 • Opening Bal Equity $36,015.68
3200 • Unrestricted Net Assets $30,336.11
Net Income $5,993.61
Total Equity $30,336.11

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY $30,498.91

2012 Annual Meeting 2012 Annual Meeting
2012 Annual Business Meeting Agenda
Saturday, November 10, 2012
Mason City, IA

- Call to order, President Mary Ellen Miller
- Review and Approve minutes from the 2011 meeting
- 2011 Financial Report, Treasurer, Erv Klaas
- Election of Officers
- Election of New Board Members (three-year terms)
  - Stacey Long, Windsor Heights
  - Board Member Reports
- Other Business
- Adjourn, President Mary Ellen Miller

Stacey Long

Stacey has experience in public speaking, event planning, program planning and evaluation, financial management, strategic planning, fundraising, board development and recruiting, grant writing and much more. Her diverse background will be an asset to the Board of Directors.

We are excited about the energy, experience, knowledge and passion Stacey will bring as a member of 1000 Friends of Iowa’s Board of Directors.

LETTER FROM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In our infancy, at the end of April in 1998, 1000 Friends of Iowa conducted a two-day, ten-city announcement tour around the state which, on the last stop of the first day, brought me to downtown Mason City. City planner Randy Carpenter guided, what I remember as, the most disturbing tour of our entire trip. After miles of strip mall development along the highway, we found our way to downtown. There sat a city park void of a citizen, a huge deserted hotel building adjacent to a shopping mall, and a town square peppered with vacant buildings.

A frustrated young man told us the value of the vacant hotel structure to the entire world, not just Mason City, Iowa, or the U.S. We were looking at one of six hotels in the world designed by famed American architect, Frank Lloyd Wright and, regrettably, the only one left standing. We sensed and shared Carpenter’s distress, but all planning in Iowa begins locally—even when the subject concerned a global treasure. Things didn’t look very hopeful. Local leaders seemed to be overwhelmed with the volume of negative factors to be addressed in conjunction with the expense of saving the hotel. Iowa had recognized this global treasure a couple years earlier by listing it on the state’s “Ten Most Endangered Properties List”. It was a disheartening way to end the first day of our announcement tour, but local citizens rose to the challenge.

Twelve years later it was with great pleasure 1000 Friends of Iowa awarded our 2011 Best Renovated Commercial/Small City Development Award to Wright on the Park, the local nonprofit that oversees ownership, preservation and maintenance of the Historic Park Inn Hotel. Today we are pleased to be sitting in this historic treasure with a beautiful park across the street, and what seems to be a reinvigorated downtown, celebrating Mason City’s successes. We are in for an educational treat as we tour the accomplishments made since my bleak 1998 visit, and learn about the wisdom of preserving what our great-grandparents sacrificed to build for us across Iowa.

Another global treasure is also vastly ignored by a majority of Iowans. Iowa is 0.98% of the world’s land mass. Not very significant. But according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Iowa has between 10-25% of the world’s finest soils. When those soils are combined with our climate and rainfall, we have the greatest potential on earth to grow food. That makes Iowans one of those 10-25% of the world’s finest soils. When those soils are combined with our climate and rainfall, we have the greatest potential on earth to grow food. That makes Iowans a global treasure, worthy of our respect and care.

As farms have grown, many of Iowa’s 948 main streets have suffered. Larger farms have led to fewer people on the land and less activity for main street businesses. We hear a lot about sustainable communities. Although Iowans are increasingly looking to the future, we must make it possible for good stewards who will protect it to own the land; not investors or absentee, non-farming owners who have no land ethic, think only of profit and tend to mine the nutrients and life from the soil for material gain.

As I think about these problems, I feel the same overwhelming volume of issues bombarding me as I sensed in 1998 on my first visit to Mason City. With concerned Iowans working together, we will educate ourselves about the interconnectedness of these issues and learn to address the challenges ahead for a bright and sustainable future.

LaVon Griffieon
2011-2012 ACTIVITY REPORT

Issue Focus/Citizen Empowerment: 1000 Friends continues educating and advising local citizens on land use issues in their communities and the best way to advocate for responsible land use throughout Iowa. Resolutions were provided via our statewide electronic Action Alert in January for voters to take to precinct caucuses.

1000 Friends continues to promote alternative transportation options and greater citizen input into transportation planning. We have served as a partner on The Tomorrow Plan, a $2.1 million federal grant through EPA/HUD/DOT’s Sustainable Communities grant awarded to the Des Moines metro.

1000 Friends facilitated the creation of a scorecard and a checklist for the use of cities seeking annexation, to determine if they have given thought to Smart Planning Principles and other issues. The work was completed by DMU student, Stacey Long, for her capstone project in Public Health and guided by Gary Taylor, ISU Extension and Iowa Smart Planning Task Force member. The scorecards and checklists are completed and hopefully will be adopted as tools to further smart planning to Iowa cities.

Carlisle mayor and Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Co-chair, Ruth Randleman, was nominated by 1000 Friends of Iowa to be on Smart Growth America’s national Local Leaders Smart Growth Steering Committee. Ruth was selected and agreed to serve on the committee of 22 from across the nation.

Speakers Bureau: We are in the process of promoting a series of educational presentations which deal with historic preservation. These presentations can be requested individually as a topic for a keynote at a meeting, or as a series for a one day workshop. The presentations deal with the importance of historic preservation in older neighborhoods, illustrated by examples of how communities can use preservation as a tool for organizing and community development. Designed to appeal to a broad audience including experienced preservationists and newcomers to the concept of historic preservation, we are excited about the potential for this series to reach many across the state.

Outreach: 1000 Friends takes advantage of monthly news stories in print and radio through the Iowa News Service. We also had display tables and booths at conventions and meetings throughout the state.

Best Development Awards: Our Best Development Awards program continues to successfully highlight outstanding projects which employ Smart Growth Principles and illustrate Sustainable Development practices

Farma-Save Signs: One of our most popular programs statewide, our Farma-Save signs are a creative and catchy way to get people thinking about one or more aspects of land use. Designed after the Burma Shave signs of the 1960s, they are working hard in a permanent home near Earlham on I-80. We currently have six sets on hand for placement around the state. Contact crystal.leto@yahoo.com or call 515-288-5364 for more information.

Buy Local Program: 1000 Friends of Iowa Buy Local Posters continue to be distributed to shops in small towns and neighborhood stores. The interest in supporting local businesses and buying locally continues to grow. While the impact of our specific Buy Local poster is unknown, the Buy Local movement continues to gain momentum and strength. Contact crystal.leto@yahoo.com or call 515-288-5364 to request Buy Local posters.

Land Use Bulletin, Email Updates, Website and Facebook: We continue to make effective use of our website, email and printed material to keep our members informed of land use issues in their areas that need our attention and input via our Public Policy Updates, Action Alerts, Website and Facebook updates and our printed quarterly Land Use Bulletin.

Transitions: Karen Howard resigned her Executive Committee and board position. Her work schedule didn’t allow her continued involvement with the board. Karen chaired the Best Development Awards and did an excellent job.

Lynn Laws resigned her position as Secretary of the board and her board position when she transitioned to a new job and moved to a different city. Lynn had written grants and was leading the board through a benchmarking exercise.

Jay Howe has joined our Advisory Council. Jay lives in Adair County.

For more information about any of our programs visit http://www.1000friendsofiowa.org.