

Hokah Horizon Team Work Plan

12/03/07

Vision

Hokah is an intergenerational community with strong young families as well as an honored place for seniors. Each generation contributes their own strengths and shares their knowledge through gathering places and community based educational opportunities. Hokah's economy includes a diverse, progressive, and innovative agricultural sector which has a strong focus on adding value to our traditional farm base. We capitalize on our renewable and sustainable energy sources. Our economy is green friendly and offers nature-based recreational and tourism opportunities.

Infrastructure

The Horizons Team will not have any formal officers; instead there will be a facilitator and a notetaker for each meeting. If either the facilitator or notetaker cannot make it to the meeting, it is their responsibility to find a replacement for the meeting. In addition to these two roles, there will be two treasurers who have the ability to access Horizons Team funds. Both treasurers need to sign off on the release of all Horizons Team funds.

The Horizons Team will meet once a month or more often if necessary. The meetings will be on the first Monday of the month at 6:30 pm and will be open to the public.

Decision-Making Process/Team Culture

There are no formal ground rules for discussion, instead it is understood that everyone present has the right to speak. The facilitator will ensure that no one person dominates conversation and that there are no sidebar conversations.

Fiscal decisions will be made by majority rule through a secret vote of whoever is in attendance at the meeting, provided that they have attended at least one previous Horizons Team meeting. A quorum is defined as at least one representative from each Future Squad, one community blogger, the local organizer, and one community member.

The agenda for the Horizons Team meetings will be decided on at the end of the previous meeting. The notetaker will be responsible for posting the agenda on the community website (www.hokah.info) and one hardcopy will be posted in town at a location to be determined. Also all fiscal decisions will be posted in a similar manner by the notetaker.

Resource Leveraging and Allocation

Horizons Team funds can be accessed by anyone or group that has been involved in the Horizons Team or CLC and who's project connects to the vision. The process starts with a presentation at the Horizons Team meeting. If the request passes, a short written explanation of what the project is and how much is being requested will be submitted to the Horizons Team. Reports of how the funds are being used will be offered back at every future meeting of the Horizons Team from the Future Squads representative.

There is no need for matching funds for a project to be considered. Limits for funds requested will be considered in a project-by-project basis. The City of Hokah is the fiscal agent and the treasurers will be responsible for reconciling accounts with city.

Communication Systems

It is important to communicate to the broader community in a variety of ways. Agendas and decisions will be communicated as well as announcements to celebrate completed projects.

Beyond the community blog site, several other communication channels will be used. This includes the Houston County News, St. Peter's Church bulletin, word of mouth through the community, posters in local businesses and bars, and the community website. In the future a mailer maybe developed (the "Hokah Holler") as well as connect with other local community group's newsletters.

Vision Affirmation/Sustainability

To ensure the success of the Horizons Team they will seek out ways to connect to other communities doing similar work through other community blogs, links, and/or workshops. It is recognized that regular meetings help keep the group energized.

The Horizons Team will revisit the community vision at the beginning for every project as they discuss it. The vision will also remain posted on the community blog and on the bulletin board of city administrator's office. The Horizons team will continue to keep the community engaged in addressing poverty issues by keeping people of Hokah informed and celebrating the Horizons Team's accomplishments. In addition to this, the work will be focused on doing things together and building community.

There are several groups and individuals that are important to partner with as this work moves forward. Among them are senior citizen groups, young people, young moms and families, low-income people, the Houston County Women's Resource Center, and city government members.

Future Squad: **Community Engagement and Youth**

Future Squad Co-Leaders: Barb Twite and Nancy Kreibich

Future Squad Goal(s): To improve communication, connectedness, and engagement for all community members.

Connection to Poverty Reduction: Help people meet their urgent needs, Build assets and hold onto them

Projects	Desired Outcomes	Actions	By When Implemented	Details
Food shelf	Create local, centrally-located source for food support and other resources for low-income residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research possible locations and partnerships, including local churches and alternative learning center • Research regulations and public support available for food shelves • Secure a location • Request community donations of appliances, shelving, etc. • Hold food drives in association with Horizons community gatherings (see above) • Organize volunteer staff for food shelf • Begin holding open hours 	Summer 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearest food shelf has limited hours and is about 15 minutes away. No public transit is available and many low-income residents do not have cars. • Horizons hopes to eventually provide produce to the food shelf from the community garden.
Community website www.hokah.info	Create a venue for improved communication within the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine appropriate url and register domain • Develop basic community information for site • Begin adding community events, city information for residents, etc. • Work toward developing a printed community newsletter, in addition to website • Collaborate with city administrator and 	Launched Summer 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This effort was begun before community blog sites were available to Horizons communities. City government has also been working on a website, and Horizons is now working to determine what collaborations with those efforts might be effective.

		others to streamline and better direct efforts		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intra-community communication has been discussed as an issue from the beginning of Study Circles, as the community has no newspaper and few shared public spaces
Community Events, Seasonal and ongoing	<p>Build community engagement by creating more opportunities for all residents to gather, socialize, and network</p> <p>Improve community health with recreational opportunities for youth, seniors, and others</p> <p>Build relationships between existing organizations through collaboration (4-H, Lions, senior citizens, fire department, et al.)</p> <p>Provide a free meal to all residents</p> <p>Create opportunities to educate and inform public on Horizons activities and poverty issues in the community</p> <p>Raise funds for Horizons activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 2007, Chili Cook-off and Study Circles kick-off draws more than 10% of community (in a blizzard!) Fall 2007, Fall Festival provides activities for kids and families, a community dinner, and barn dance for adults. Funds raised for Horizons projects. Winter 2007, Craft Fair held at City Hall Winter 2007, Holiday lights event includes community dinner and builds community pride and awareness January 2008, Chili cook-off held again with good attendance March 2008, Euchre Tournament a great success, brings multiple generations together 	First events held Spring 2007.	
Super Saturdays: Free open gym for children and youth	<p>Provide safe, healthy activity, free to all and accessible (walkable)</p> <p>Provide part-time employment and mentoring</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with city to reserve gym at old city hall Hire older youth in the community to supervise Schedule one Saturday a month (growing soon to 2 Saturdays a month) for open 	Launched Fall 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An unexpected benefit is the opportunity for parents, many of them stay-at-home moms, to socialize and network with one another.

	opportunity to several community youth who supervise gym time	gym, group games, etc.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since Hokah no longer has a public school, providing local activities for youth has been a high priority. • Horizons has partnered with the Lions Club to fund this project • Junior Gym is held 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Youth Gym 1 to 4 pm
Creating/enhancing community space, including public library	<p>Ensure Hokah residents have access to quality community spaces for both public and private events, classes, fitness activities, and more.</p> <p>Build relationships between organizations to better utilize resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue work on restoring and renovating old city hall, a centrally-located community asset which houses the public library and many community events • Explore possible collaboration with Bluff Country Learning Options, the local alternative learning center, to provide community space for classrooms, events, and other community resources • Work with LaCrescent Community Education to develop and offer programming in Hokah 	Discussions begun Spring 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration work on city hall has been well underway since long before Horizons' involvement in Hokah, but is relevant to community-building efforts and continues to be spearheaded by Horizons members.
Improve communication and relations with local government	<p>Strengthen community by building more engaged and responsive government</p> <p>Work toward better public decision-making through greater resident engagement in public processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring 2007 – present Horizons members begin attending City Council meetings and engaging in discussion with council on a variety of issues • Spring 2007 – Horizons successfully lobbies council to transfer control of public pool from city clerk's office to park and rec board • Summer and Fall 2007 – Horizons works with all levels of local government, as well as FEMA and other agencies, to hold flood-recovery organizing and information meeting 	Launched Spring 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

**HOKAH
FUTURE SQUAD PLANNING WORKSHEETS**

Future Squad: **Environment and Tourism**

Future Squad Co-Leaders: Jackie Lindhorst and Kim Witt

Future Squad Goal(s): To build Hokah’s local economy, community pride and environmental health by capitalizing on natural and economic assets.

Connection to Poverty Reduction: Build assets and hold onto them: Help people meet their urgent needs

Projects	Desired Outcomes	Actions	By When Implemented	Details
<p>Public Spring-fed Pool – renovate and revitalize</p>	<p>A safe, positive local activity is provided at low cost to youth and families (community has no public school).</p> <p>Free and subsidized swimming lessons are offered to area youth</p> <p>A community asset is repaired and restored as a recreational and gathering space for all generations</p> <p>An unusual local feature is developed and positioned to become an attraction for visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horizons lobbies city council successfully to shift control of local pool from city clerk’s office to parks and recreation board • Contact DNR re: resources for post-flood restoration • Have engineer assessment of structure • Determine immediate needs to open pool in good condition for summer ‘08 • Organize and schedule community work days • Create publicity on public value and need for pool • Identify funding sources for low-income kids’ and seniors’ use of pool • Ensure lifeguards are hired and trained • Create plan for financial sustainability • Continue to improve and promote pool as a unique natural/recreational feature of the area 	<p>Summer 2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much work and restoration was done by volunteers in Spring and Summer of 2007, but pool was badly damaged in flood in August ‘07. • 2008 marks the 40th anniversary of this unique, spring-fed public swimming pool and beach, in a beautiful natural setting on the edge of town, within walking distance of downtown and most residential areas • Without a community school, offering positive activities and gathering places for youth and young families has been a high priority for Hokah Horizons. • The pool will also provide special hours for seniors, offering older community members a place to gather and socialize, as well as families.

<p>Community Garden & Farmer's Market</p>	<p>All community members, particularly those without their own land, will be able to grow their own healthy foods.</p> <p>Young people will have the opportunity to learn gardening skills from older community members.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure land – donated by local landowner – and prepare for spring planting • Organize youth and adult gardeners to begin spring planting • After first season, assess options for 2009 farmer's market 	<p>Community Garden launched spring 2008</p> <p>Farmer's market tentatively targeted for late summer 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden was started by youth and adults working together in summer '07, but work was disrupted by the August flood. • Within one to two years, once garden is established, community gardeners plan to initiate a farmer's market, selling produce from the community garden as well as from other local growers
<p>Group advertising for local businesses</p>	<p>Horizons will facilitate greater collaboration between local businesses, including joint advertising in local tourism publications.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hokah brochure developed to promote history, tourism, etc. • Initial ad spread published in 2008 LaCrescent Area Guide • Further collaborative opportunities will be explored • Impact of initial ads will be assessed before renewal for 2009 guidebooks 	<p>Launched Spring 2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With no official business association in town, Horizons is filling an important role by facilitating this collaboration. • Hokah has a proud history as a tourist and honeymoon destination, and these efforts will support revitalization of that aspect of the local economy.
<p>Community website, www.hokah.info</p>	<p>Create a website with community information for potential visitors and tourists</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine appropriate url and register domain • Develop basic community information for site • Begin adding community events, reflections on area's assets, etc. • Collaborate with city administrator and others to streamline and better direct efforts 	<p>Launched Summer 2007</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See information on website above