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Waukee Conducts Downtown Assessment With Iowa Economic Development Authority

The City of Waukee and Waukee Triangle businesses teamed up to coordinate a Downtown Assessment to inform future development and growth for Waukee's historic Triangle District. The assessment is an intense, onsite study of the downtown, including a public presentation on August 11 to share findings and a written report that will help Triangle stakeholders with planning efforts.

"The Assessment Visit is a great way for a community to take a step back and get honest feedback from a qualified group of downtown professionals. The revitalization specialists will highlight the downtown's strengths and challenges and offer some practical recommendations that the community can implement over time," said Jim Engle, Director of the Iowa Downtown Resource Center.

First, a survey collected feedback from residents and downtown business owners. Waukee had nearly 500 responses, a record according to the assessment facilitators.

This week, five downtown revitalization specialists from the Iowa Economic Development Authority's Downtown Resource Center will visit the downtown district. On August 9 at 7 p.m., residents and business owners are invited to a community input session to share their thoughts regarding businesses and amenities they'd like to preserve and see added to the downtown district in the future. The revitalization specialists will then interview residents, business owners and community stakeholders.

All five specialists have worked extensively in all sizes of communities in the Midwest with an emphasis on downtown development. Many communities in Iowa have taken advantage of this service and then went on to execute successful plans and projects. Issues such as downtown aesthetics, business mix and development, organizational refinement, promotion calendars and building rehabilitation are common themes for the downtown assessment visits.

“The visit is always most successful when we have excellent community input.” Engle said. “We encourage Waukee residents to think about your downtown and what you’d like to see, so you can be ready to participate in a community input session or interviews with the assessment team.”

On August 11 at noon, the Iowa Economic Development Authority Downtown Resource Center will host a public presentation to share a summary of the visit findings at the Waukee Community Center.

“The Triangle District exemplifies what is at the core of Waukee’s identity, both historically and as the City grows. This assessment will help the City, business leaders and other important stakeholders find ways to preserve the hometown feel while activating the downtown into a vibrant destination for residents and visitors alike,” said Mayor Courtney Clarke.

For questions on the Downtown Assessment, contact Jennifer Brown, Director of Economic Development at 515-978-7410 or jbrown@waukee.org.

Key dates:

- August 9, 7 PM, [Community Input Session](#) at the Waukee Community Center, 675 Walnut St.
- August 11, 12 PM (noon), [Public Presentation](#) of the findings at the Waukee Community Center, 675 Walnut St.

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The City of Waukee is recognized as the fastest growing (large) city in Iowa and is located in Dallas County—one of the fastest growing counties in the U.S. The current population is 26,495 residents. Waukee offers a friendly environment featuring quality parks, schools and trails. The City is also dedicated to economic development and expanding business opportunities, including the creation of the mixed-use development, Kettlestone. For more information, visit Waukee.org.