

# Summary of 3-1-10 Community Meeting

(33 in attendance)

## Considerations in Saving the Depot

### Pros

- Historic preservation
- Of potential utility
- Sentimental value
- Is moveable
- Could be a gateway to the city
- Might be eligible for funding assistance
- Might attract local donations
- Possible future use by rail
- Mentioned Uses: Commuter depot for bus, mill town trail, public restrooms, historical museum
- Easily navigated – historical
- Could easily combine with music
- Would expand current downtown to the west
- Provides impetus to develop west Northfield
- Possible catalyst to economic development
- Re: Q-block location: The city need to do something with Spring Street
- Are several opportunities for free space
- Are flood issues for some of the parks

### Cons

- The total amount of money it would take to move, restore, etc.
- Maintenance costs
- Has to be moved
- The long list of the city's needed capitol improvements
- Concern about getting people across Highway #3
- Need to have people access
- Questionable financial viability

### Need to consider

- Space for expansion and parking
- Planning needs to be coordinated with property owners
- Needs to be self-sustaining
- If near the rr, needs to fit in with the residential on west side
- Q-block needs a plan
- Multi-level buildings along #3 in the future might cut off the view of the depot if located near the rr
- Need to think about cost of parking and competition for funding with other groups
- Think about parking
- Adding new building near Third Street to house restaurant / bar
- Should be part of historical element or tied to something else.
- Should be destination point – people should have a reason for going there

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## Suggestions for Use

- Visitor Center (n=4)
- Related to tourism (receiving center, visitor's center)
- Welcome Center; Railroad Museum; Rental/Meeting Space; Café/Coffee house
- Prominent railroad theme but varied use; historic décor; train rides, ski & bike rental
- Recreation equipment Rental Center (bikes, kayaks/canoes, cross-country skies, show shoes) (n=3)
- Travel oriented (trails, visitor center, canoe rental, skies & related gear) Self-supporting. Don't depend on city or donors to support operating & maintenance costs.
- Mill Towns Trail Building (n=3)
- Northfield Transit Hub (n=6)
- Development to transit/bridge hwy.
- Public and private; multi-use
- Railroad museum
- Museum
- Various Historical Displays (n=2)
- Café/coffee shop (n=3)
- Bar & Restaurant (n=2)
- Bike Shop
- Youth Center - "The Key"
- American Legion
- Chamber, Information Center, Coffee shop (n=2)
- Multiple uses (n=2)
- Community Room
- Legion use the out-building
- Picnic area in pavilion
- Gathering spot for small groups
- Meeting conference facility
- Pavilion as additional meeting / function space

## Suggestions for Location

- SE Corner of Hiway 3 and 2<sup>nd</sup> St.
- Between 3<sup>rd</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> either side of tracks (preferably east of rail tracks; workable if on west side of tracks)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & Linden
- Corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> & Spring
- Q-Block (n=4)
- Q-Block (where Legion was)
- Along railroad tracks
- Stay as close as possible to the rail line (n=2)
- Keep in historical context of the rail
- West side of railroad line
- Manhart Park
- Babcock Park (n=2)
- Ames Park (n=2)
- Sechler Park
- Way Park

# Summary of 3-1-10 Community Meeting

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- Riverside Park/Mall
- Memorial Park
- Safety Center
- Should connect to downtown
- Near downtown
- Location of current police station
- Riverside Mall redevelopment
- Steam Museum
- Needs to be visible, not hidden, and related to transportation
- Needs to be in sight – as a point of arrival
- The Crossing
- West of tracks between 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

## Suggestions for Ownership

- Northfield Downtown Development Corporation (NDDC)
- Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB)
- Mill Towns Trail
- City
- Northfield Chamber
- Imaginative Entrepreneurial (needs an entrepreneurial approach; imagination about uses, practical about how to maintain and operate)
- Millionaire Private Party who likes railroads and depots
- Historical Society
- Jaycee Group
- Public / private / non-profit collaboration
- Restaurant (in new building) would manage whole site for rentals and functions (Legion furnishes rest.; city owns lot & buildings)

## Suggestions by Meeting Participants for Owner AND Location AND Use

Owner	Location	Use
Chamber/CVB	Q-Block	Visitor Center; Rental/Meeting Space; Coffee bar/café; Chamber offices
City/CVB	Manhart Park	Coffee house-snack bar; railroad museum; trails; Malt-O-Meal museum; non-profit offices; travel center
City (or other public)	Along railroad tracks	Public & private bathrooms; café; community use rooms
CVB	Close to Railroad & High-way 3; Linden & 2nd	Visitor Center; Museum
CVB	Ames Park	Visitors Center operated by CVB
Combination	Near railroad line	Railroad theme (RR car displayed); historical displays; coffee shop & small visitor center; bike & sc ski trail head
CVB	Q-Block	Railroad museum; visitor center
Historical Society	W 2 <sup>nd</sup> & Spring	Museum/visitor