

Making The Front Page

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Gretna Downtown Association meets with Route 6 Association by Mike Fischer

Editor



As the snow began to fall outside, the ideas also began to fly inside. The Gretna Downtown Association met with David Darby, the Executive Director of the Iowa U.S. Route 6 Tourist Association.

Darby met with the association to discuss the historic route of Hwy. 6 through Gretna.

Beginning 100 years ago, Hwy. 6 was constructed along a route similar to that of today. Over time, a bypass was built to reroute traffic away from Gretna's downtown. The initial route took traffic along

Angus Street, McKenna Avenue, South and 216th Street.

In 1931, increased volume spurred the new route to be established as a safety factor.

Darby presented the Downtown Association with two Historic Route 6 signs to post along the historic route.

Darby handles much of the tourism along the historic route in Iowa, and told the association they can use a similar approach for the Gretna Downtown by using the historic route as a tourism selling point.

The original route of Hwy. 6 takes the road from Cape Cod to Long Beach, and Gretna, Nebr. sits in about the middle of the route, Darby explained.

The primary focus of the Route 6 Association is to promote the small towns along the historic route, and entice travelers to use the old highways.

"The old routes are the life blood of our country," Darby said. "The money spent in the small communities stays in the area."

The Gretna Downtown Association is now seeking grants and ways to fund their plan to restore and promote Gretna's Historic Downtown.

This newly found connection will help the association in their applications.

The association is also planning a fundraiser during the coming holiday season to help accumulate funds for the downtown plans.

The downtown association is hosting a "Greenery and Glitter" Gretna Christmas Tour on December 5th. The tour will feature eight area homes, the Red Star Stables and the Dream Garage.

More information about the association and the tour can be found on the association's Web site www.gretnadowntownassociation.org