

## Tom O'Grady

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**From:** Bill Nicklas <fnicklas@niu.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 10, 2013 2:20 PM  
**To:** Douglas Roberts; Tom Matya  
**Subject:** Consultant Look at College/John  
**Attachments:** HeidResumeOct2013.pdf

Good afternoon, Doug and Tom,

Since our lunch on Tuesday, I have had several conversations with Doug Baker, Ron Walters and Mike Malone. All agree with your premise that we need a first-class community planner who has been a change agent in past ventures to help guide us toward a redevelopment plan that truly enhances the student experience at Northern. All agree that your sponsorship of such planning assistance would be a jump start in the right direction.

There are several ways we can proceed:

1. We could do an RFQ and sort through the qualifications of responding firms, do interviews, and select a firm that would guide us through a number of NIU/community conversations/ charettes, etc.; or
2. We could select a leading urban planner with whom we are familiar to assess our challenge, meet with the principals (including you, Frank Roberts, Tim Struthers, Mike Cullen, NIU reps, City reps), and also participate in the larger charette now planned for October 29 etc. in order to give us some guidance about next steps.

We favor Step #2. Ron Walters knows Jim Heid, who seems to fit the bill. I have attached his resume. You can also see a YouTube of his recent work in the transformation of a derelict neighborhood in Columbus, Ohio around the OSU campus ([http://youtu.be/6BR\\_a9GGPEY](http://youtu.be/6BR_a9GGPEY)). If we could fund about three days around the time of the proposed charette he should be able to give us some good guidance. At that point, we could either negotiate a contract with him, or go to Step #2, or some other option.

The \$24,000 preliminary engineering work Tim and NIU have funded would not be wasted; it would help in the definition of the project area whoever may provide the expert hand in planning.

What do you think?

Bill