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Strategic Planning & Partnerships Commission

Proceedings by Authority

State of New York,  
City of Jamestown ss.:  
Mayor's Conference Room

The regular meeting of the Strategic Planning & Partnerships Commission of the City of Jamestown, New York was held on Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 8:30 A.M in the Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall.

Members Present: Co-Chairman Greg Rabb, Linda Swanson, Jim Olson, Jim Domagola, Sylvia Root, Mike Haines

Others Present: Becky Robbins, Kirk Young

Co-Chair Rabb called the meeting to order and introduced Sylvia Root and Mike Haines.

### **CULTURAL BRIDGES ACTION TEAM**

Mr. Rabb: The meeting was cancelled yesterday due to the weather although by the time it got to 4:00 pm it was perfectly, well it was cold.

Ms. Swanson: A lot of people weren't working, weren't at this spot, so we called it in the middle of the – and our guests were coming from Buffalo.

Mr. Rabb: Well when you cancelled it, it was pretty bad out there. So, I went home and shoveled.

Ms. Swanson: Me too.

### **HCAT UPDATE**

Mr. Rabb: I know HCAT was meeting, but has anybody from our group? Are you on that? Were you at the last meeting?

Ms. Swanson: Yes. I even did the minutes. They are moving ahead with the Health Care Career Fair for the grant to – it's really to WIB. They got funding for the Physician Recruitment Pool from CRCF and they are going to the other foundations; Lenna, Hultquist in May.

Mr. Young: What's that funding for?

Ms. Swanson: To recruit the physicians. They have a pool of money. This is cycle four and Sheldon couldn't do it this time. We just couldn't swing it, we have too many commitments. They were down to zero. They had drained the pot and now they're trying to get it back up again. There were a lot of people at that meeting and activity happening with the Mental Health Association is going forward. They are securing funding for their peer recovery coaches.

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Sheldon awarded some. CRCF awarded some money. Most of the foundations all meet in May, so there's another round coming up through the foundations. That about sums it up. They are meeting again next week.

Mr. Rabb: And what about the career fair? When is that and who is that for?

Ms. Swanson: That's for high school students in southern Chautauqua County. Usually JHS sends a contingency, Southwestern, Falconer, Frewsburg. It's held at the WCA auditorium and it's really interactive. There are about twenty or thirty tables manned by all kinds of representatives from different areas of health care and they get to do hands-on kinds of things. It's usually well attended and peaks the interest of the kids to stay in STEM related coursework. That is our largest employer in the City of Jamestown; health care. And this is to grow our own pipeline, be it physicians on down to CNAs; certified nurses' assistants, LPNs, nursing school at JCC.

Mr. Young: Will they be there?

Ms. Swanson: Yes, they're always there.

Mr. Young: When is the event?

Ms. Swanson: You would ask me. I probably have it in my calendar. I left my phone at work, but I do keep double calendars for that reason. I think it's in May. I don't have it with me here. We also fund, with CRCF, a college internship for students interested in going into medicine and that's refunded and that's run by WIB; the workforce investment board. And they are taking applications now and it's become really competitive and really popular finally. It's the fifth, sixth year we've done it and they place students in a variety of settings so they can rotate through different settings; some are at the hospital, some are at physician's offices and they were already receiving some applications. We've had some luck with people actually moving through now. We've been working at this for about five, six years, growing the pipeline. Trying to get students interested and connected with the medical community here. There are probably over a hundred students in track by CCHN and the WIB, students that we know of that have indicated an interest. We've gotten two into medical school now this coming year from the Jamestown/Falconer area that are students at SUNY Fredonia. They've been accepted into the Upstate Medical School's accelerated program. We're tracking them all and trying to give them those summer internship experiences; get to know physicians, kind of cheerlead them with the hopes that the local hook will bring them back. It's starting to bear fruit after funding it for a while, wondering...

Mr. Rabb: It takes time. To get all the way through that.

Ms. Swanson: It takes time and then of course they have to get through and the Mayor's own son is part of this. He's at Upstate Medical, got into that program. So, we are keeping our eyes on them. There's also a program run by CCHN, Chautauqua County Health Network, called MECCO for students finishing a first year of medical school and they can rotate to more advanced rotations at the hospital and they're accepting slots now. We've had MECCO students

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now that we're tracking at UB Med and different places. Usually after their second year of medical school, they are encouraged now to do research and other opportunities so that's our last real touch with them in that we don't have a residency program here and we're not a teaching hospital. But, Upstate Medical has a track for rural hospitals like us and we are working with them to try to get a residency experience here at WCA. And that tends to help where students end up doing the residency is often where they're ended up offered jobs in that community and not being a large teaching hospital, we lose out. They may come from here, they end up in Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester, Pittsburgh, Cleveland and then they get snatched up by those communities. We're fighting the battle to come home. That's the strongest way we know to keep physicians here is if they have local roots; either their spouse or them. Family tends to tip the scale a little bit when choices are made.

So, that's moving along, things at HCAT. And Lillian is still hanging in there, chairing it.

Mr. Rabb: Any questions for Linda on HCAT?

### **GREATER JAMESTOWN JOBS & YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**

Mr. Rabb: Do we know anything about Greater Jamestown Jobs and Young Professionals? No offense to us, but none of us look like young professionals.

Ms. Swanson: Is Jackie still running it? Jacquelyn Chiarot?

Mr. Rabb: I haven't seen Jackie here in the longest time.

Mr. Young: The Young Professionals are Simone and Chris Sellstrom.

Ms. Swanson: Yes, they're being married this weekend.

Mr. Rabb: That's more important than this?

Ms. Robbins: They left Thursday.

Mr. Rabb: I know. We had to have a phone meeting at JRC with Chris on the phone. He was already gone.

### **COMMUNITY BOARD LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION**

Mr. Rabb: How about Community Board Leadership Succession? You look like you were going to say something, Linda.

Ms. Swanson: Marty's kind of dropped off of that, I think and Tory's on maternity leave so those were the two that have been driving it.

Mr. Rabb: Having children is more important than us?

Ms. Swanson: Getting married, having children, yes.

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Mr. Young: We had the meeting and she was kind of looking to kind of resurrect the – what's the program they have through United Way?

Ms. Swanson: Project Blueprint.

Mr. Young: Project Blueprint. So, we're working on that and we're working to contact places like Chautauqua Leadership Network and the Young Professionals group and others to see if we could work through there to recruit some individuals that would be interested in serving on boards and then we were working to contact some of the existing boards to see if there would be individuals on those boards willing to mentor some of these younger professionals in kind of a boardmanship capacity. We're working on that, Tory's working on that. I know that she's out.

Ms. Swanson: It took a little hiatus.

Mr. Rabb: I'm assuming when you say, we're, you're a part of that.

Mr. Young: Yes. I've been a part of that.

Ms. Swanson: Yes.

### **JAMESTOWN AMBASSADOR PROGRAM**

Mr. Rabb: How about the Jamestown Ambassador Program?

Ms. Swanson: Nothing's really happened with that and there isn't really a chair of that. It was an idea pitched by Kathleen Eads and then Andrea Magnuson picked it up a little bit, but she's not an official commission member, so she stopped coming. We don't really have a leader for that.

Ms. Robbins: Is that the idea of getting people ready for tourists to come in?

Ms. Swanson: Yes. And what we learned at the last meeting from Kathleen was that was a little bit different than what she was talking about. She'd mentioned in LA where she worked in a theater that was in a rough part of town, they actually recruited and hired people to be kind of just extra people out there, kind of semi-security, semi-tourist outreach and they had an official little uniform, or vest. They were on bikes and they were around because it was a rough part of town. People were getting pick-pocketed and they were trying to get people to feel comfortable coming down to that theater area and so they were another presence in addition. So, it was more soft security, I don't know how to say it, friendly security, than what I originally envisioned; that it was people welcoming people on the street and that kind of thing. It was a little bit more than that and I said, did you pay them? She said yes, they had raised funds.

Ms. Robbins: We saw that actually in Cleveland, out by the playhouse, probably five years ago, and we didn't really know what it was, but when I was talking about it, I was talking

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about training the downtown restaurateurs and other people to know how to act with tourists and act like you like it here. Because so often...

Mr. Rabb: Well hopefully they do like it here.

Ms. Robbins: Well, I love winter, but if people come in during the winter and the people that live here are kvetched about it, what good is that?

Ms. Swanson: Yes. Her original concept was a little different than what we had been talking about at the table and I think they can certainly merge as in customer service training or tourist training. But, I think you're right. The attitude; during the summer tour bus season, I'm right there at Third and Main and constant people looking for a restaurant, people looking for where to go, lost trailing spouses; the men standing out there at the four corners while their wives are in the Lucy store and how you present yourself as friendly and approachable and willing to give directions. It all makes a difference in their experience instead of you just looking down and scooting to your next appointment. I think we all could use some training.

Ms. Robbins: Has JRC thought of that at all?

Mr. Domagola: I think we have. I know it's been discussed. I'm not sure where in the process it is. The attractions we've been going through some transition right now, but it's something I can bring up at the next meeting, just to resurrect the idea of where it's at.

Ms. Swanson: I think a combination of things, at least during the height of the tourist season, someone that looks like they know – if they're identifiable by a polo shirt or vest or something that is just available. I can't tell you how many people come in by bus. It's phenomenal. It's nonstop. Starting when the snow breaks, they are in there and there are a lot of people spilling out and often I'm caught off guard trying to think of what lunch restaurant is open right now and I'm always asked where's a place to eat. Last summer we had a lack of them. Labyrinth was closed – there wasn't a lot of places to direct people right in that downtown corridor. And then there's that overlap late afternoon, when Lisciandro's closes, the Pub open, you're scratching your head, who's open for not a fine dining experience, like Forte, but something intermediate. Training on that again would be helpful I think. We're kind of in that awkward in-between time because I think some restaurants have been folding, trying to hang on long enough and others are waiting to see if the tourists really arrive.

Ms. Root: So, your Chamber of Commerce doesn't give you lists?

Ms. Swanson: No. we have not much of a chamber left in Jamestown. We do have one.

Ms. Robbins: Well, there's the Chautauqua County Chamber.

Ms. Swanson: And then a local chapter, yes.

Mr. Rabb: It's probably more likely to fall back on JRC.

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Ms. Swanson: The Jamestown Renaissance Corporation has been kind of more of the lead on that.

Mr. Domagola: I'll find out.

Ms. Swanson: Yes. Now that it's getting more imminent.

Ms. Robbins: Somebody did talk about having the county, and I never know the name of it anymore, but Tour Chautauqua, the Chautauqua County Visitor's Bureau, do they do anything with it?

Ms. Swanson: Not really hands on. They do web advertising and that kind of thing, but Chautauqua Institution I know, has brought in at times, Disney Institute to train people, staff and we're probably candidates for it. People that really know.

Ms. Robbins: Andrea's not on this anymore?

Ms. Swanson: She was never an appointed person so as her workload increased, she chose not to attend. We could strong arm her again.

Ms. Robbins: Maybe we ought to call people and ask them if they're... Hey, we missed you.

Ms. Swanson: Yes, there's no one here from WCA, they have a seat. I don't have that book with me. Who are the other seats?

Mr. Olson: Who all? Kathleen, Paul, BPU, JCC, Todd Trantum, Mike, Mayor, the hospital, Marty Idzik are the members. The rest; Joelle, Tory, the library, PJ, JRC, Jacquelyn, Vince, Dr. Ney. I sent them an agenda.

Ms. Robbins: That's true, they get the agenda. Maybe we ought to split up the list and ask them if – I mean, we cancelled last month?

Mr. Rabb: We cancelled the one in February, right.

Ms. Robbins: But we met in January? I can't remember.

Mr. Rabb: Yes, we met in January and we're going to meet in April.

Ms. Robbins: Did we have many people here then?

Mr. Rabb: No, we were low in January too.

Ms. Swanson: Yes, we didn't have a quorum.

Ms. Robbins: It's not a very good future with these...

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Mr. Rabb: Well, the only one that's waiting on approval is Jim and Jim's nice enough to keep showing up even though he's awaiting approval.

Mr. Domagola: Because the one time I miss it, there will be a quorum. I won't be here to witness that.

Mr. Rabb: We can approve you even if you're not here. That's not going to stop us. As soon as we can, we will.

Ms. Swanson: I think that with the state's decision on what gets funded for the DRI and as the Poverty Initiative kind of works its way through, some suggestions, there will be more of an outline of what's going to happen and maybe that will make our work a little easier of where to next.

Mr. Rabb: Well, people have to stop getting married, having children and having surgery and then...

Ms. Swanson: And then we're good. I think maybe we need to grow our ranks.

Mr. Rabb: I think you're right.

Ms. Swanson: I think maybe we should suggest that we have more seats.

Mr. Olson: That's up to the Council. It's an ordinance amendment through the Council.

Ms. Swanson: Yes because we have more of a critical mass.

Mr. Rabb: I don't think there would be any problem with that.

Ms. Swanson: I think what we need are some at-large seats so that they don't actually represent an entity, but we have people that are just generally interested and when they find out that they don't really have a vote; why come? You know what I mean? I think that's what happened with some of the people. So, maybe we need five at-large seats or something like that.

Mr. Rabb: How many officially are on the commission, Jim?

Mr. Olson: Fifteen.

Mr. Rabb: That many? Wow. That's why we needed eight for a quorum. I think I like the idea of additional seats, but it almost seems like we're too big and that's why we're having trouble.

Ms. Swanson: Well, we have really spotty attendance by some institutions and they've just decided not to come. So, they're sitting on a spot.

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Mr. Rabb: Maybe what we need to do at some point is revisit it and maybe even – if WCA really doesn't want to be here...

Ms. Swanson: Be here? Exactly. We should have a designated seat. Maybe we need to convert some from...

Mr. Rabb: Institution to at-large.

Ms. Swanson: Yes. That's what I'm thinking because I'd rather work with people that want to be here than just hold a seat for someone that really...

Mr. Rabb: And if we had at-large seats one of them could be the hospital if they had somebody interested. So maybe at some point we could talk about...

Ms. Swanson: Converting them to more at-large because I feel it's no good to have a token. I think the idea was good in the beginning; that you would get a diverse representation from different factions in the community, but if it's not working...

Mr. Rabb: Well, it was but I think now is the time to reconsider it. That would just require what?

Mr. Olson: An ordinance amendment.

Mr. Rabb: An ordinance amendment. I can't imagine the council objecting to a change.

Ms. Robbins: What's the next meeting, because I'd be happy to call some of these people.

Mr. Rabb: The next meeting of this body?

Ms. Robbins: Yes.

Mr. Rabb: It would be; what are we the third Thursday? So, I don't know what that is in April.

Ms. Swanson: That's April 20<sup>th</sup>. So, that's the week after Easter. So, everybody should be back from breaks or whatever.

Mr. Rabb: Easter is the Sunday before that?

Ms. Swanson: Yes, and I think spring recess for – I have it in here is that previous week, ending with Easter which is unusual. Usually it was the other way.

Mr. Domagola: It is.

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Ms. Swanson: I think because it's so late.

Mr. Rabb: I'm taking a break right this morning. As soon as we're done I'm leaving for Germany. We're on break; I did my duty. I'm running away.

Ms. Swanson: Greg can you take that to City Council? Because you're chair. Let's get it done.

Mr. Rabb: When I get back, I'll talk to Jim and how we want to change it.

Ms. Swanson: Because this isn't working anymore.

Mr. Rabb: No, we'll change it.

Ms. Robbins: Joelle I see at Rotary. I can call Jackie, Joelle, Marty Idzik.

Mr. Domagola: I'll see Joelle when I get back to the office.

Mr. Rabb: Is she an actual member?

Ms. Swanson: No, she's not an actual member. She's head of an action team. That's the problem.

Ms. Robbins: If she's head of an action team, how can she not be a member?

Ms. Swanson: That's our problem. We have very rigid...

Ms. Robbins: I don't know if I'm a member.

Ms. Swanson: Yes, you're representing BPU.

Mr. Olson: You have to be designated; just like Kirk. You would have to be designated by the General Manager or the President of the college to be a member. Versus he or he being a member.

Ms. Robbins: So I shouldn't have been voting all along either.

Ms. Swanson: You're representing BPU. They have a seat.

Mr. Young: They've designated you as their representative.

Mr. Rabb: Let's – maybe you and I need to revisit that when I get back.

Mr. Olson: Sure. Just call me.

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Ms. Swanson: Thank you for coming Sylvia. You're probably wondering, we're at an interesting juncture.

Ms. Robbins: It's been an active group. We've created the Health Care Action Team, Cultural Bridges.

Mr. Rabb: We did create a lot of stuff and we still will.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

James N. Olson, Director of Finance/City Clerk