

November 17, 2016

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, November 17, 2016 at 8:30 A.M in the Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall.

Members Present: Co-Chairman Greg Rabb, Kathleen Eads, Linda Swanson, Jim Olson, Paul Leone, Cory Duckworth

Others Present: Becky Robbins, Joelle Conti-Washer, Cecil Miller

Co-Chair Rabb called the meeting to order.

CULTURAL BRIDGES ACTION TEAM

Mr. Leone: I don't know if there's anything new other than our debriefing from the October 15th event.

Ms. Swanson: And we did that this last month here.

Mr. Leone: I'm just thinking that it's time to sort of regroup and bring on and move forward. I've still got plenty of ideas for initiatives and I know everybody else is feeling the same way.

Ms. Swanson: Katie Felton is stepping down as chairing the Linguistic Action Team so we need a new leader for that. The education one hasn't met, I don't think, since our last meeting. And we spent the time debriefing the events of the weekend which we'd kind of done at this table. And Tory's taken over for Jennifer.

Ms. Washer-Conti: Yes. And Tory seems keen to move the meeting to an evening and/or so that we can expand the number of people who are participating.

Ms. Swanson: There's going to be a new concerted outreach to the Hispanic pastors who didn't seem to be engaged; they kind of dropped off. We're going to revisit that.

Mr. Leone: Didn't Kirk have something to add? I can't remember.

Ms. Eads: Was it something about Kyle? Or was it just that...

Ms. Swanson: Yes. Kyle is coming back to JCC – they're trying to bring him back and they were looking at the possibility of reconvening with him if he's in town. Those dates weren't firm, but was it February?

November 17, 2016

Ms. Eads: February.

Ms. Swanson: February sticks in my mind and I think his wife Katie's trying to bring him back to also work with the Chautauqua Leadership Network, so we were looking at maybe a three-way sharing of his time here.

Mr. Rabb: Did you figure out the next day and time for the meeting?

Ms. Swanson: No because some of the feedback we got from the Hispanic community that did attend said that Friday afternoon at 2:00 at the bank was probably not going to work for them so we were going to be open to finding another venue and something late afternoon into early evening at a place that might be more inviting. Friday afternoon's a little tough.

Mr. Rabb: Was that more the problem than the bank?

Ms. Swanson: It was probably both.

Mr. Rabb: The bank's very friendly.

Ms. Swanson: We had talked about maybe meeting at one of the Hispanic restaurants or alternating different places and having it a little more social, informal.

Mr. Rabb: Could we meet at one of the churches?

Ms. Swanson: It's picking one over another.

Mr. Rabb: If somebody would host; they could rotate it.

Ms. Swanson: That's why we wanted to reach out to the pastors again. We don't have much representation from that community on the committees now. They've kind of fallen off.

Mr. Duckworth: JCC would be available if that's at all helpful.

Ms. Swanson: Yes; transportation might be – I'm not sure where we're at. I think the only one we had from the Hispanic community was Mindi, who's the outreach worker for Chautauqua Adult Daycare.

Mr. Leone: Rosa was there, wasn't she?

Ms. Conti-Washer: She was at the last one, but...

Ms. Swanson: No, she wasn't at the last one.

TRANSGENDER TOWN HALL PROJECT

Mr. Rabb: After I spoke with you last time, I put in the Transgender Initiative and I have one handout. In the handout, one of the things was that unfortunately since the election, there's been an uptick in – it's hard to describe this, but it's actions towards all kinds of people including transgendered individuals. I put out this announcement that the Governor established a state-wide hotline. This isn't just for transgender, but it's kids being bullied because they're Muslim or they're Latino or transgendered or gay; to the point that it got so serious. I've been getting reports from various sources that they established this hotline so if you could share it with folks.

The other thing; if you look on the other side, I'm on the LGBTQ committee at NYSUT and we're spearheading the Advocacy Day for May 2nd. We did one this past May. We threw it together very quickly and we still got several hundred people. We're planning way ahead to get GENDA, the Gender Non-Discrimination Act, we have the Governor's executive action, but we still don't have a statute protecting transgendered folks in New York State so it is a priority. You can see one of the reasons we put it on May 2nd, is one, the state budget should be done and two, we're hoping to be able to encourage more college students to show up. It's nice to have the high school kids, but nothing moves elected officials, I can speak from personal experiences here, like people who can vote for or against you. So, we're working on this already. I'm on the call along with – you can see on the top the attendees. Terri Cook, she's the mother of a transgendered son from Westfield so she's local. She's been working with me and she just presented last night in my Buff State class. She's amazing, she's got a wonderful story to tell. I invited her to give us a short presentation at the December meeting, which is on the 15th to talk about challenges facing transgendered individuals in New York. One, from her personal story as the mother of a transgendered son, which is quite moving and she is now an activist all over the United states. And she's local. She was nice enough to come to my class last night and very effective. I'm trying to bring her into JCC, but she's also going to come and talk to us in December. I called it the Transgender Initiative because we don't have a team. I didn't know what to call it and while we hope to get state legislation passed, if that's not possible, then we're going to start looking into a Jamestown ordinance. She has all the information on the municipal ordinances that exist now. There is one up in Buffalo which was actually pushed through by a former student of mine; a nice young man. I'm very proud of him. He got it done and I'm impressed thoroughly.

Ms. Swanson: These people listed here; are those across the state? At the conference call?

Mr. Rabb: Yes because it's from here to Long Island. Terri and I are obviously from this area and Kitty Lambert-Rudd is a good friend of mine from Buffalo. Jim works for NYSUT in Albany and these other folks are from different parts. There are more people, it's just not everyone could do the phone meeting. I usually, because of my class, get to the phone meeting late. NYSUT will meet in person in January. That is NYSUT's agenda. We have to protect our transgendered friends and neighbors. That's really my goal and we're going to move full steam ahead.

Mr. Leone: Tell us what NYSUT stands for.

November 17, 2016

Mr. Rabb: Oh, I'm sorry; New York State United Teachers.

Ms. Swanson: Not every SUNY campus has NYSUT, do they? We're unusual right, for having that?

Mr. Rabb: Yes, we're affiliated with NYSUT, but I also teach at Buff State and we have UUP; United University Professors up there. I get the pleasure for having two unions.

Ms. Swanson: But, NYSUT is more the high school, public school, K – 12.

Mr. Rabb: They obviously have a big presence here because of their office over on North Main Street, but you're right. It's mostly pre-college.

Ms. Swanson: It's mostly K-12, yes.

Mr. Rabb: Because we are affiliated through our union at JCC with NYSUT, that's how I ended up on the committee. We wanted to make sure we had people from all over the state.

Ms. Eads: Greg, what do you do on Advocacy Day on May 2nd?

Mr. Rabb: We descend on Albany and try to convince our legislators to do the right thing. So, last May I spent a lot of time with Senator Young who was actually very generous with her time. She gave us some good insight into where she felt this was. Some other people went to see Andy Goodell and then, because we were from all over the state, I went to other legislators as well. It's actually very interesting because when you take students, they learn about lobbying and I know some of our students go for JCC to Albany and it's really just very interesting to spend the day there, watching how it works. Senator Kennedy from up in Buffalo is a very good friend of the LGBT community so he's always excited to see us. He thinks I'm the mayor of Jamestown; don't tell Sam that. He says Mr. Mayor good to see you and I don't correct him. He doesn't represent us, but he's a good friend and he works out in a JCC t-shirt. I gave him one and he said it's starting to fall apart so I've got to get him a new one. He doesn't even represent this area, but he's a good friend of ours. It's a lobby day.

Ms. Swanson: So there's not activities here particularly.

Mr. Rabb: No.

Ms. Eads: Would you ever want to do anything locally?

Mr. Rabb: Typically what we suggest is to go to Albany because when we show up in Albany, it's very impressive. Especially if you come from this far away because it's a long trip. The New York people show up – big deal, it's a 2-hour train ride. But then you do follow up usually in the local office. After the event, every time I saw the senator, I thanked her, expressed my concern again. We could do something local, sure.

November 17, 2016

Mr. Leone: Since that 2016 Advocacy Day, has there been further contact with Cathy Young related to this?

Mr. Rabb: Other than me, sending her a handwritten thank you note and then thanking her again at the Memorial Day parade, no because then we go into high gear on the budget and that's got to be taken care of first. And then they go into high gear on their budget, so May 2nd is a good day because it's after Easter, it's after Passover, it's after the budget. For college students, it's before final exams. We're not going to get anything answered now.

Mr. Leone: How do the students – is it volunteers from your class generally from JCC? Or anybody that wants to go can go?

Mr. Rabb: Anybody can go if they can get the time off or arrange it with their instructors to be away. We have lunch and then we have speakers in the morning and then we descend on the capital.

Mr. Leone: Sounds like a good day for the students.

Mr. Rabb: Yes, if you want to know how government works and how lobbying works and meet state legislators and aides. We often end up meeting with the aides rather than the legislators, but Terri Cook and I had a private session with Senator Young for at least twenty minutes. To her credit, she kept all kinds of people waiting in her outer office. Her aide kept coming in and she told him to go away so when we came out, there was a huge crowd waiting to see her. I know we got her attention; whether we can move the dial, I don't know, but we certainly got her attention. Part of it is because of my position and then, Terri's a mom and the senator's a mom and they had a nice mom-to-mom talk. I just shut up and listened. It was very powerful. I thought they were both going to start crying. We're reaching their hearts; we've got to reach their minds. It's interesting. GENDA has passed the assembly multiple times, it has yet to go on the floor of the Senate.

Mr. Leone: I'm guessing that a lot of the people at this table don't know what GENDA is.

Mr. Rabb: The Gender Non-Discrimination Act. It would make gender identity a protected class in the state's human rights law. So, if you're transgendered from female to male or male to female, you would have complete and total rights. Just like as a gay man, we've amended the Human Rights Law; I'm protected in New York State. Transgendered individuals can still be fired, turned down for mortgages, thrown out of their apartments. Simply because they are transgendered. And it still happens.

Mr. Leone: Does GENDA stand for – is that an acronym?

Mr. Rabb: Yes, Gender Non-Discrimination Act.

Mr. Leone: Alright

November 17, 2016

Mr. Rabb: Thank you for bringing that up. Those of us who work on it start to forget. That's an excellent question. Basically, it just makes transgendered individuals a protected class under New York State Human Rights Law. Which currently is not the case. But if you're gay or lesbian, you're protected. If you're black, if you're Jewish, if you're Polish American like I am, you're protected. But, my transgendered friends still aren't protected. And there's lots of discrimination unfortunately, which sometimes crosses the line into physical acts. Terri's got some actually frightening statistics. And her personal story because her son is transgendered and doing very well. I think he's at SUNY Buffalo. So, I invited Terri to join us and Jim, we might have to move to the Police Training Room because she wants to do a power point. Is that possible? Thank you.

HCAT UPDATE

Ms. Swanson: They have requested the last of the physician recruitment pool money. So, that's been drained for Dr. Steeler. It was announced, he's a D.O, but ENT. So, he's started.

Mr. Rabb: What's D.O., ENT?

Ms. Swanson: Doctor of Osteopathy, not a medical doctor.

Mr. Rabb: What's the ENT?

Ms. Swanson: Ear, nose and throat. Sorry. He's started and the Sheldon Foundation has received an application for another – this would be the third round of physician recruitment pool money and so it will be going to the other foundations, but they don't meet till later in the year. Our board meets January 10th. I don't know what they'll do with it; if they'll re-up it a third time or not.

Ms. Eads: How much is it for?

Ms. Swanson: The last time I think we got \$150,000.00 pool or \$200,000.00. Something like that. Lenna put some money in, we put some money in, Carnahan did, DERA, CRCF. Gebbie didn't, but most of all the other ones put in a little bit. There are still priority needs. Out of all the physicians that have been recruited with the pool, only one has left.

Ms. Robbins: One is left or one has?

Ms. Swanson: One left. The remaining are still here practicing. The other big initiative from HCAT is the drug epidemic and there's a lot of activity in that arena. We still don't have a good solution for a long-term rehab treatment program because insurance companies won't reimburse for that. That's the basic problem. Until that changes and there's a way to actually bring in some revenue to pay for it...

November 17, 2016

Mr. Duckworth: We're getting ready to submit a grant to the Oasis program seeking to educate people about drug and alcohol addiction. If we were successful, it would be \$150,000.00 a year for five years.

Ms. Swanson: The projected operating cost to run a long-term rehab unit would be about \$1.2 million I think was the number I heard. Annually, with no revenue stream at the moment. They have secured some money to build something through a line item three years ago, to STEL and another line-item grant, but it's a drop in the bucket. Until something happens at the state level to change the insurance reimbursement. Mental Health Association is very busy averaging around 300 people a month. Their jail diversion program; they get about twenty referrals a week. I was just there yesterday, because they're in the docket as well.

Mr. Rabb: Anytime I've been there, it's been really busy. Which is good that that place is there, but it lets you see how bad the problem is.

Ms. Swanson: It's outpatient so... The relationship at the hospital is really improved. They will now do detox in the ED with referrals from MHA, so they're bringing people regularly there and the problem is, there's limited beds at Jones Hill to admit someone, so they're keeping pretty close tabs though now by taking someone there personally to the ED and then they pick them up and try to get them into their outpatient programming if there isn't room at Jones Hill. All of those pass offs, baton pass offs are working a lot better.

Mr. Miller: We've been given temporary approval for two additional beds. Instead of thirteen now we have fifteen and they're full.

Ms. Swanson: They're full. And that's thirty days, right?

Mr. Miller: It depends, yes.

Ms. Swanson: So, it takes about a year to get those chemicals out of your body. So, those cravings and addictions are pretty strong for a long time.

Mr. Leone: Is it a variety of drugs or mostly heroin?

Mr. Miller: Alcohol as well.

Ms. Swanson: Alcohol and often there's painkillers and there's also depression, clinical depression and mental health, so there's a lot of co-illnesses. So, that's the other thing that HCAT has been at least sharing information at that table. We had a presentation last month from the head of SUNY's Upstate Rural Medicine recruitment position, and she presented at WCA on – and actually, it's the Mayor's son that worked really hard to get that connection to us. Upstate Medical School for many years has had a rural residency program where they try to recruit physicians that come from rural communities and they also try to allow medical rotations in rural communities. Ours hasn't participated, but across all of upstate, they've been doing this and we've been interested in how to do that. How to have a residency opportunity here or they also

November 17, 2016

do some summer programs so she presented what they do and I guess it'll come back to HCAT to discuss if we want to pursue anything further.

GREATER JAMESTOWN JOBS & JAMESTOWN YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Ms. Washer-Conti: On Tuesday, the 28th I believe. Is that the right date? 29th – it's the Tuesday. There is an event at Shawbucks where they have – the United Way has helped to bring together non-profits who are looking for people to volunteer and young professionals who want to volunteer and try to do a speed dating thing. Kind of a fun event. I know that that's going on.

Ms. Swanson: I remember hearing about that.

Ms. Washer-Conti: That date was set and it is at Shawbucks that Tuesday. I know they're still meeting and having things going on, but I don't meet with them because I'm too old. Megan works in our office so... I know they've done a lot more digital stuff now that Amber from United Way is on that committee as well. I've seen more stuff online and I think they have a bigger outreach now.

Mr. Leone: So there is an upper limit to age to be in this group?

Ms. Conti-Washer: No. I don't think there is. I think I could still qualify. I used to do it many years ago.

Ms. Robbins: They invite people to their monthly gatherings.

Ms. Conti-Washer: I get invited, yes. They want that mingle together, some of us that are older and some that are younger. I think I might still qualify.

Mr. Rabb: Looking at you, you must qualify. Everybody looks increasingly younger to me.

Ms. Conti-Washer: That's because you're getting increasingly older.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Swanson: I've been thinking about this. There are a lot of initiatives going on right now. There is the Poverty Reduction Initiative. There's also the Downtown Revitalization Initiative. Len Faulk was always our out there on the horizon, visionary kind of person, thinking what's next. We haven't met with City Council for two years maybe. They're up to their neck in alligators right now. We've got a lot of activity happening at other tables and I was wondering if we should take a little hiatus until we hear what some of these initiatives come up with. I'm struggling to think of what that next thing should be so I'll be real honest. I feel like we need to figure out what that next thing is. I know that Lillian's getting weary of chairing HCAT. She's had health issues this year. There isn't an imminent successor to that convening. Tory's being pretty brave taking on a lot here, but she's due to have a second child the end of February and March. She has a lot on her plate. We're dealing with some succession issues, I think, for some

November 17, 2016

of our action teams and a purpose for this commission. I'll be real candid. It's hard to convene people if you don't really have...

Mr. Rabb: Well people have to bring stuff up. I scheduled the speaker for December and I'm pushing the transgender initiative and that's a brand new one. There's plenty of stuff out there for us to do. People need to bring stuff forward.

Ms. Swanson: In the past we've done, one of the big projects was the reassessment, then there was the Urban Design Plan and then there was the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. We've kind of gotten into diversity issues and we were always challenged to create new jobs which is really hard for a commission. And that's how the Health Care Action Team came up, because we looked at where are the jobs within the city proper itself and one of the major industries is the medical corridor and that's kind of how that one evolved. So, we have enough plans on the table to figure out how to implement. I'll just say, that's what I've been thinking about; what's the next thing? And if the city...

Mr. Rabb: Well, I think that would be a charge for us to come up with...

Ms. Swanson: Well that's what I'm saying. So, I was kind of wondering if we should take a break in January – or not. I've spent a lot of effort to work on the past two retreats that we did with the city council. That takes work, but it takes a facilitator, it takes structure, it takes thought. And I'm struggling to envision that; given the financial situation the city's in. So, are we looking at governance issues? And policing was a long-time one that started thirteen years ago, I think. So, knowing – where could we be of the most help to the city?

Ms. Eads: The DRI project list is supposed to be announced in the second week of February?

Ms. Swanson: Both of those initiatives are due to come up with something the end of February, early March. I think there will be meat in it. Some, I think will be straightforward capital that the commission wouldn't really do. But, there were other jobs-related things that I saw on the DRI thing. I don't know if anything will emerge from that that we would want to help move along.

Ms. Robbins: Well, is HCAT – are you suggesting they just disband?

Ms. Swanson: There is no successor at the moment. I think Lillian was feeling fairly trapped. She can't travel. She has meetings – you know, it's every month. Maybe going bi-monthly or find someone else that could take it over. I offered to do the minutes for her because she was doing the minutes, which are kind of onerous, so I did the last set of minutes for her. She has the power to convene that group like on one else does, so there isn't an imminent person that comes to mind that's neutral enough. Everybody's kind of a competitor around the table.

Ms. Eads: So much competition. Such a small town, so much competition.

November 17, 2016

Ms. Swanson: Well that's the thing. We've got a lot of people attending a lot of meetings here. And a lot of them are the same people. So, they're pretty tired. I think they're working to push to meet these deadlines. Just bringing it up...

Mr. Rabb: One of the things we could discuss in January is whether or not it's time to have another meeting with the city council.

Ms. Swanson: Well I think so.

Mr. Rabb: I think that would be a good topic to say, should we do it, how are we going to do it, when are we going to do it. Because you've got to do it in that January to summertime because the budget should be behind us so we can focus on other things.

Ms. Swanson: In the past, a few times we did a retreat in January on the off-cycle year, which this would be, but we're not prepared at this point.

Mr. Rabb: No, but we could discuss it January, February, March and April.

Ms. Swanson: Sometimes it's slid to later in the spring; you worked with me on the last one. We did a little newsletter thing and each of the action teams had a report out kind of thing. That was the last one we did.

Ms. Conti-Washer: I think that was a big one, yes.

Ms. Swanson: Yes. We are supposed to be advisory to city council, so I think it's good to meet with them to hear what their – Marie Carrubba has been very faithful attending HCAT, so she's been your representative there. We don't really have anyone attending from city council to the cultural bridges.

Mr. Rabb: Well I'm there.

Ms. Swanson: Yes, some.

Mr. Rabb: Except when I'm in class. If you don't have it when I'm in class, I can be there. I think, you know, since you brought up the DRI, that's something that we could discuss because the DRI is looking for ideas and recommendations. That's what this commission does. I think in January, another good discussion would be, what do we think the DRI should do?

Ms. Swanson: There's a few more public meetings.

Mr. Rabb: Right, there's another one in December.

Ms. Swanson: You and I and Paul attended that; and you were there. So, a bunch of us from this committee were there. That's why I'm saying, there's just a lot of meetings right now.

Ms. Robbins: You're weary.

November 17, 2016

Ms. Swanson: I'm weary too.

Mr. Rabb: I had to leave that one early because of city council, so I was only there for twenty minutes and then I had to skedaddle over here, but I think discussing what the commission thinks the DRI should do would be very helpful because we are looking for ideas.

Ms. Conti-Washer: When's the next meeting? The 14th pops in my head, but I could be totally wrong.

Mr. Rabb: I thought it was the 15th, the same day as our commission meeting, but I could be totally wrong.

Ms. Conti-Washer: I don't even know where they're doing it.

Mr. Rabb: I thought it was the Jackson Center. Our next meeting is on the 15th; this group.

Ms. Swanson: Is it the same night as the Jamestown Concert Association? That's the 14th. So you think it's the 15th?

Mr. Rabb: I think so.

Ms. Swanson: I feel like there's a lot out there percolating and I think maybe just let it come forward.

Mr. Rabb: My problem with the break is you lose momentum.

Ms. Swanson: What's your schedule for the spring? Are we going to be able to keep this time slot?

Mr. Rabb: I don't know yet. I won't be able to tell you till later. I definitely can do the December meeting, but what happens next, I don't know. I think I have a class scheduled Tuesday/ Thursday morning, but I don't know. I remember all these other things, but I can't remember what my classes are in the spring.

Mr. Leone: Can anybody give an update on the comedy center; what's going on?

Ms. Swanson: Everybody's waiting for the CFA. Early December.

Ms. Eads: Everybody is anxiously awaiting.

Mr. Leone: You can see the building taking shape.

Ms. Swanson: They're short a lot of money so...

November 17, 2016

Ms. Eads: I was surprised they moved forward. The big CFA announce. That's what everybody's waiting for.

Ms. Swanson: Do you have a date yet? Just early December?

Ms. Eads: I figure it's the week of the 5th. That seems to be what it's been the last couple of years. Unless there's some reason he wants a picture taken handing out money earlier. It's all there.

Ms. Swanson: Over 50 applications from the county were submitted for that. That's a lot of our grantees are waiting to hear.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

James N. Olson, Director of Finance/City Clerk