

December 10, 2010

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 Friday, December 10, 2010 at 8:00 a.m.

Members Present: Co-Chairman Jennifer Harkness, Co-Chairman Greg Rabb, Len Faulk, Linda Swanson, Becky Robbins, Dave Painter

Others Present: Jason Stronz, Amanda Chapel

Co-Chair Harkness called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 2010 meeting were approved.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLAN PRESENTATION

- The Jamestown Renaissance Corporation is searching for a Neighborhood Coordinator. Funding was obtained from multiple sources - The Gebbie Foundation, The Community Foundation, The Sheldon Foundation, Lenna Foundation all came forward and supported this search for the person. Four interviews have been conducted. The hope is to have someone in place by January 1. Forums and workshops are being planned. Once that person is in place, they'll take over those duties. The Plan will be reviewed at the Housing Committee on Monday night on December 13 - 6:30 P.M. The Housing Committee will review it and make a recommendation to the full Council for a vote on December 27, 2010.
- Len Faulk and Jason Stronz have been working with Steve Centi to meld a document that came out of the Planning Commission's recommendations into what czb presented. That is almost completed. The czb Plan is not an addendum as once was stated. It's now entitled, "City of Jamestown - a Livable Community." In reviewing the document, you'll see the czb Plan proceeded by an overview and after references to the czb Report go into the visioning plan that the Planning Commission set forward with their different strategies for implementation.
- The unified plan brings together the history of how this all evolved with support from this Commission, from City Council, from Greg Rabb, from the Mayor.
- A process was developed to do the groundwork for the pre-groundwork for the study, the study was completed, the Strategic Planning Commission reviewed the study and approved it and sent it to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has added sections to the report including a Livable Community vision and principles. The City also added some policy recommendations for the City, the County and State. This has been an issue of timing - how to unify a report and how to distribute that report. A quick version of the report was available yesterday. At the next meeting, we should have the full report to

review. The issues are (1) do we need to review what the City does? We made our recommendations to the Planning Commission with the City, are we in a position then reviewing what the City does? We don't do that with all City policy per se. There's a difference because we're taking up additional issues the report that go beyond what we were actually tasked with doing in terms of strategic plans.

- Is the portion that the Department of Development created was really more of an implementation – taking items out of the Plan and taking it up to the next level of responsibility? There are certain things that the City government needs to lead, there's certain things that JRC is working on.
- There were policy recommendations from both inside City Hall and outside City Hall. Martha Zenns, Chair of the Planning Commission and Greg Rabb are meeting with the Strategic Planning Committee of the Board of Public Utilities to discuss the recommendations that the Plan is making to the Board of Public Utilities.
- The Commission has done its job. The City has incorporated the Plan – an integral part of the larger Plan implementation. Our part has been completed. We've had a partnership in terms of molding a unified document. It's a flexible document. There are things there that are going to work beautifully; there are some things that may indeed not go forward with. There are some things that will be flexible. Nothing is written in stone in terms of what the City perceives that some of the policy issues even vs. what's in the Plan. We're celebrating that we already are a livable community. That positive message is really focused on becoming a more livable community. That's our message. The study showed all kinds of strengths and strengths that we have we can build on. We have some techniques and tactics to create larger strengths and create the kind of housing market that will increase demand and pull us in the right direction.
- The members are encouraged to come on Monday to the Housing Committee meeting and also the 27th to the City Council voting session. It would be important when the council votes on the Plan that people attend and people speak out in favor of it.

HEALTH CARE ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Things are moving along. The members have assignments to work on.
 - The IBEW has 500 participants in a new health care plan with Blue Cross & Blue Shield. They are having a hard time finding anybody in Jamestown that will accept Blue Cross, Blue Shield. With 500 participants many are leaving the city because they can't find anybody that will take Blue Cross Blue Shield. The IBEW members have to scramble and try and figure out what we're going to do. That may need to be brought up with JAMA because JAMA doesn't accept it. If the people aren't going to go to a doctor because of the health care that they have – that's an issue. It keeps people away from Jamestown.
 - There are doctors that are willing to accept it, but finding a doctor that's acceptable to go so is another issue.
 - There aren't many doctors that are accepting patients today.
 - There are separate issues with Jamestown Radiologists.
 - The question would be why they don't take it.
 - Reimbursement is the issue.
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- A meeting needs to be set up to see what the issues are and if there's something that can be negotiated.

REGINAL SERVICE SHARING OPPORTUNITIES TASK FORCE

- Todd Trantum has a conflicting meeting that he is changing so he will be able to attend in the future.

URBAN DESIGN PLAN UPDATE

- 2010 projects are being wrapped up.
- Funding for 2011 has been received on a multitude of projects; façade restorations, upper floor development, funding for the Winter Garden site development and a crosswalk and viaduct enhancements. The viaducts underneath the railroad overpasses at Main Street and Foote Avenue will be cleaned up to create better gateways into the downtown.
- The JRC has met with the Western New York Pennsylvania Railroad President and his local contact here. They have slated to tear down the other buildings on the east side of North Main Street in the Spring. Once they are cleaned up, the structural issues will be reviewed. Repairs will be completed along with lighting, landscaping and benches. Chess tables with a public gathering area that will provide a cleaner gateway into the downtown.
- The Western New York Pennsylvania Railroad was waiting on the east side in order to give the tenants an opportunity to clear out their goods.
- The JRC is partnering with the East Side Y who's done some good work in those areas. Jason Stronz has met with Billy Torres to work on the possibility of painting above on Foote Avenue. Painting the actual tracks that you see and a "welcome to downtown Jamestown side, or thank you for visiting downtown," on the north side and a welcome on the south side. Clearing out all of the overgrowth on the tracks will also be done so it looks a little bit cleaner.
- The Western New York Pennsylvania Railroad understand why we want to accomplish these things. They also made it clear that it's not their position to do any of it. Their number one focus is on the tracks.
- Can the Sprague Street viaduct be added?
- It has been considered.
- This will be a pilot project for the JRC. There is no guarantee that any aesthetic enhancements underneath will be completed. Foote Avenue structurally is a mess, it would cost us hundreds of thousands of dollars to fix.
- JCC worked with Billy Torres from the East Side Y on the Foote Avenue viaduct. It was swept it out and painted to make it look better.
- At the last Council meeting this past Monday, Councilman Dolce remarked on someone who came back home to Jamestown after 20 years and said that he never saw downtown look so good. It looked terrific and he was happy to see that when he left it didn't look this good. It is good to hear those comments.

JAMESTOWN'S NEXT GEN TASK FORCE

- There is a grant from the Urban Council that is available. The deadline is in mid-January in the amount of \$500 to \$2,000 grants for young professional groups in New York State.
- It came from the Urban Council. Maclain Berhaupt forwarded it because she's part of that Young Leadership Congress.

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- The Next Gen Leadership Joelle Conti-Washer and Kerri Brown have circulated it to the Next Gen group. They are trying to find a non-profit 501 C 3 to actually request the funds.
- It could be done through the Community Foundation.
- It's for setting up events to help organizations get a little bit more of a presence in their communities. Some of the things that the Next Gen has been struggling with is there is no funding for them to host a natural networking social – or there's no funding for them to do some of the things they want to do. They rely on people coming out and just participating and they're struggling doing that.

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

- The overall strategic planning workshop needs to be scheduled for January.
- The committees need to be updated. The benchmarks need to be updated. The community indicators need to be updated.
- We're trying to measure the success of the City.
- Tourism, Jobs need to be reviewed.
- January 26th at 5:00 P.M. at the Renaissance Center is the tentative schedule.
- The City Council and the Commission will review benchmarks?
- The Commission will we recommit to what our focus is going to be for 2011. The Neighborhood Plan is now on its way so it is not known how much more involvement we need at the Commission level. Healthcare is a concern.
- The Community Foundation is holding a day-long session on the 19th to do a checkup on the community to find out what's going on, what are the needs. Presentations from various groups will be made. The Community Foundation is trying to get an education on what's happening in the community. What the major issues are. The joint foundations will participate.
- The format of this meeting needs to be determined. A report from the foundations on what their overview was would be helpful. An update of the health action team and discussion of that would be useful and an update from the City in terms of issues that they see in the next two years should be presented.
- The police consolidation can be reviewed.
- A small group to plan who we should hear from can be organized.
- The BPU can be reviewed.
- Some key points and some presentations and then discussion and prioritizations can be reviewed.
- Benchmarks can also be reviewed.
- A lot of what the commission had on its agenda is under way so those things can be handed off.
- We have to celebrate the accomplishments.
- The Police consolidation RFP is nearly ready to be sent out.
- The committee met a couple of weeks ago to put the final touches on the numbers.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

James N. Olson
Director of Financial Services/City Clerk