

February 9, 2005

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 Wednesday, February 9, 2005 at 8:00 a.m.

Members Present: Co-Chair Jennifer Harkness, Miles Lasser, Mike Lyons, Larry Senn, Ron DeSantis, Mike Sullivan, Gregory Rabb, Raymond Fashano, Councilman James Ventura, and Brent Sheldon (arrived at 8:25 a.m.)

Members Absent: Co-Chair Anthony Dolce, Beulah Cammarata, Mayor Teresi, Gregory DeCinque, Betsy Wright, George Spitale and Todd Trantum

Members Excused: Wally Haase

Others Present: Acting City Clerk Debbie Patti, Ann Fafinski-Mason, Carla Howie, Principal Planner William Rice, John Whittaker of The Post-Journal and Maclain Nichols

First 30 minutes of the meeting were not taped. Secretary arrived at 8:30 a.m. Members were discussing the Power Plant Project and the MAJA independent study.

The Commission discussed the lack of understanding of the funding of the project by the public.

Ms. Nichols stated that maybe we need to do something different other than just providing information and today it seems like we should do something different to support the project. It might change the whole scope of what we are attempting to do. Are we supporting the project or are we just providing another venue for information?

Mr. Lyons commented that everybody is interested in the project and he feels people will come to the meetings if they are interested. People still don't understand. They need to be more informed, and not with just the technical side of it. We need to focus on the community development and how it impacts the community.

Co-Chair Harkness suggested that we could have Mr. Haase sharing information from the Board of Public Utilities and then have someone else discuss Community Revitalization, Economic Development and showing how it affects them.

Ms. Howie stated she thinks they need to preface the presentation of the forum by saying the Strategic Planning and Partnership Commission is interested in developing or sharing those particular aspects of the project – Community revitalization, economic development, regionalism. Wally could come out with his presentation sort of an overview, with our members and some supporting cast can then develop, at least those three topics and that would be why we are interested in presenting this particular forum to the community.

Mr. Rice stated that that is exactly what the community is looking for. He stated the community should know how it interfaces with economic development, the environmental aspects

February 9, 2005

of the power plant – that is what the public wants to know. He thought that ideally the people would say that if we do this project, what are some ideas that would even make it better. If you have public forums and open hearings, if you went back two months after this meeting, based on some of the input we had, this is going to look a little bit different. So, the next time you have an issue, you can say that it wasn't all done before we got here – the public did have input and it was actually valuable. We could make a case for building on the future. He thought the panel would be the best approach.

Mr. Lyons said he thought it was a good idea because who knows what the MAJA will say.

Mr. Senn asked what the scope of the MAJA report was.

Ms. Fafinski-Mason stated that it was going to be somewhere between 509-900 pages long and how much MAJA will release will be another factor. She stated that they consider themselves energy experts. They have looked at projects such as this before. The businesses in the Jamestown area account for 1/3 of the electorate, so if you are talking economic development, you are talking business because business will bring in the residents.

Co-Chair Harkness stated that they would have that at the end of the month. She asked if anyone had ideas of someone else that would be good.

Mr. Ventura answered Russ Diethrick would be good.

Ms. Fafinski-Mason asked if anyone knew of some type of emissions expert.

Mr. Fashano said the Board of Public Utilities should have an engineering company that has studied this.

Mr. Sullivan stated there should be a regional person who has a position somewhere.

Mr. Lasser stated that through the University of Buffalo they have this regional group.

Mr. Rice stated that having someone like that who is an expert would give credibility to the panel.

Ms. Nichols stated that she has been discussing back and forth with Dr. Len Faulk about some people from the University of Buffalo and they should perhaps ask somebody to come down and participate.

Co-Chair Harkness asked if Ms. Nichols could suggest some names and email them to her. She commented that they had talked about calling it Energy Needs of Jamestown, but that doesn't seem to fit.

Ms. Fafinski-Mason said how about the Power of Jamestown.

Mr. Lasser stated we can come up with some creative names. Look at the technical aspect as well as the regional - Energy of the future of Jamestown.

Action Team reports

Co-Chair Harkness asked if anybody remembered that they changed their meeting times to the 2nd Wednesday of each month rather than the 1st Wednesday of the month at 8:00 A.M. She advised that a revised calendar would be sent out.

February 9, 2005

Mr. Lyons reported that his committee has not met yet, but is going to meet on the 17th. The committee is the Development of the Capital Improvement Processing Plan. They have some business people working together with the Administration and a couple of people from the City Council to see if they can come up with some new ideas. The problem is money.

(Mr. Lyons left at 9:50 A.M.)

Ms. Howie commented that the Coordination and Effective Government has not met in some time and that they should get back together again soon. She further updated on the Finance Advisory Group saying that they have been meeting for almost a year now and they meet once a month. There is a representative from Assessor's Office and the Treasurer's Office and the IT group. They have come up with many different improvement items and they are now at the point of doing an analysis. One of the significant things she has seen is employee morale. When they first began as a sub-committee they talked about employee morale being a big issue. People have now been getting together for luncheons, dinners, etc. They have a newsletter now and there is more information sharing. Each department in City Hall has a representative that will be there as a news reporter for the news letter. She thinks that things are progressing and they are still looking at identifying improvements that are needed. The Department of Development lost their outside facilitator and the Committee is working on getting someone else.

Co-Chair Harkness spoke about the Community Revitalization Group which has not met yet but is meeting next Thursday. Ms. Nichols is going to take over chairing that group along with Cynthia Trotsky. They have broadened to reach the southside area – within that action team there are a lot of different areas. The group as a whole has not met yet.

Mr. Sullivan stated that a meeting was scheduled but had to be cancelled. He stated that they will meet before the end of this month.

Ms. Nichols discussed recognizing various individuals at the Community Forum as a way of continuing to get the word out about the program and also doing some things with the CEO program. She further stated that she is trying to re-look at the Neighborhood Revitalization Group along with Ms. Harkness to see who should be leading that organization.

Co-Chair Harkness commented that the community really needs to make a push that they want to share services to give their support to the elected officials who actually are meeting.

Mr. Rice reported on the Urban Design. They are working on funding. They are also working on another grant encouraged by the Department of State and Department of Transportation to take the traffic portion of the circulation plan and go after this grant. That is due February 25th so they are working fast to get that finished.

Co-Chair Harkness gave a short update on the CEO program. She stated that Mr. McElrath is working on a \$250,000 grant that has been out there for over a year. She further stated that would set up the program as a model.

Mr. Fashano said no it does not. It only follows a group of kids from 6th or 7th grade through college. He stated that his group met on this yesterday for over an hour. The grant is set up as a cohort and that is the flaw in the program because what happens to the kids right before in line or right after.

Co-Chair Harkness remarked that the Weed and Seed Program is having a forum at the Jackson Center on March 2nd at 5:30 P.M. Everyone is invited to attend. A neighborhood block program will also be represented at the meeting.

Mr. Rice stated the medical center in Brooklyn Square is on the Planning Committee agenda for this month.

February 9, 2005

Ms. Nichols remarked that it is going to be a beautiful place and a real asset to the City. The building will have separate store fronts, a separate entrance with an atrium off from Harrison Street.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Debbie C. Patti
Acting City Clerk