

July 16, 2002

Strategic Planning & Partnerships Commission ---- Proceedings by Authority

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

A meeting of the Strategic Planning & Partnerships Commission of the City of Jamestown, New York was held on Wednesday, July 16, 2002 at 8:00 a.m.

Members Present: Co-Chair Lillian V. Ney, Co-Chair Michael Lyons, George Spitale, Gregory Rabb, Todd Trantum, Brent Sheldon (arrived at 8:15 a.m.), Jennifer Harkness (arrived at 8:30 a.m.), Mayor Teresi (arrived at 8:40 a.m.)

Members Excused: Gregory DeCinque

Members Absent: Michael Sullivan, Betsy Wright, Raymond Fashano, Walter Haase, Miles Lasser, A. John Calamunci

Others Present: Dr. Russ Linden, Dr. Len Faulk, Maclain Nichols, Councilwoman Carolyn Bloomquist, Mark Federko, Joe Genco, Prinicpal Planner William Rice, Director of Development Steven Centi, Director of Financial Services James N. Olson, John Whittaker of the Post-Journal, Lee A. Cannon of the Office of the City Clerk

Co-Chair Ney called the meeting to order. She discussed the Commission's progress to date. She thought that the meeting with the Lyceum may be held in September. She turned the meeting over to Dr. Linden.

Dr. Linden discussed the proposed agenda. He wanted to review the feedback received regarding the action items and add revisions or additions if necessary. He discussed coordinating with Christie Herbst regarding newspaper articles. He wondered who would write each article and when they would have them published. He asked when the members wanted to make their final presentation to the Council.

Co-Chair Ney felt the members needed reaffirmation regarding the top ten items discussed at the last meeting.

Co-Chair Lyons agreed.

Mr. Trantum felt that they should define who the Commission was to the public. He wanted clarification that the Commission was a community effort, not just members of the city government. He also stated the importance of making each of the steps more understandable for the average person. He felt simpler terms should be used.

Mr. Spitale felt that the Co-Chairs should be getting everyone's input. He wanted them to meet with business management, labor group, etc. He thought that some ideas may have different meanings to different people.

There was discussion regarding the media.

Mr. Trantum felt that since they were bringing the concept to the community, they needed to figure out what their objective is. He wondered if they wanted to make it informational or if they wanted continuous input.

July 16, 2002

Co-Chair Ney agreed with Mr. Trantum. She felt that it was a matter of education, requesting feedback and buy in. She thought that the Lyceum group would help in maximizing the end result. She wondered if these items could be accomplished in one setting.

Mr. Trantum wondered if the Commission wanted continuous input. He stated that the concept is long term. He felt that it was important to get continuous feedback and support from the taxpayer. He thought that one public event would not be enough.

Dr. Linden discussed holding meetings around the community.

Mr. Spitale believed that the newspaper articles should be published on Sundays. He felt that people take more time read the Sunday paper and are more relaxed.

Mr. Rabb felt that there was no consensus at the last meeting regarding the top ten.

Ms. Nichols distributed copies of what she felt the group had come up with at the last meeting for the top ten. She then reviewed the action steps.

There was discussion regarding ranking the items and whether the group came up with a consensus. The members also discussed the taxes item.

Dr. Linden pointed out that they were looking at Phase I of a Phase II process. He felt that dealing with taxes would be a longer process than some other issues that they could tackle immediately.

Mr. Trantum wondered why the policy statement regarding re-evaluation was not included. He felt that statement was something that the Commission should reconsider.

There was discussion regarding the ranking list that Ms. Nichols distributed.

Mr. Sheldon thought that there were 15 items not 10 on the list.

Mr. Centi felt that they may want to keep a couple items in "reserve" in case some items came off the list. He discussed *Regionalism #3*. He said that he had already tried to attain the grant funding. He did not believe that outlying communities understand the true benefits of regionalism. He felt that they may want to organize an educational campaign regarding the benefits.

Dr. Faulk stated that JCC just regionalized and saved the City millions of dollars. He discussed other avenues Mr. Centi could take to attain grant funding.

Mr. Spitale wondered if they would need shared services before regionalism.

Dr. Linden gave some feedback on the meetings he had yesterday. He pointed out that foundation leaders were intrigued by regionalism. One foundation leader suggested that if the City was unable to receive HUD monies for other localities that they could partner with some of the foundations in the area to try to attain those monies for other localities.

There was discussion regarding real estate markets and why Jamestown has been struggling. The members also discussed the ability or inability to go after landlords of vacant houses, the court system and influencing legislation.

Co-Chair Ney suggested that a lobbyist could help influence changing legislation.

Co-Chair Lyons wanted the re-evaluation policy statement included in the items.

July 16, 2002

Dr. Linden understood that the members wanted tighter/tougher language in the City Code to enforce housing violations. He also noted that a re-evaluation policy statement should be included in the list of items.

Mayor Teresi discussed communicating with neighbors when landlords go to court. He wanted to encourage the neighbors to attend the hearings.

Dr. Linden recommended that they actively engage complainants when cases go to court.

Dr. Faulk agreed with Dr. Linden. He discussed developing a strategy to market neighborhoods. He spoke in regards to changing perceptions about neighborhoods in Jamestown.

Mr. Rabb said that he had asked people why they don't live in Jamestown the number one response answered was taxes. He thought that getting a lobbyist was a great idea. He also believed that it should be admitted that some of the reason that people don't live in the community is because they are racist. He pointed out that there were no minorities on the Commission.

Mr. Tranum agreed with Mr. Rabb's comments regarding racism.

Dr. Linden thought that the Co-Chairs and the Mayor could expand membership of the group to include some of the minorities.

(Dr. Faulk dismissed himself at 9:15 a.m.)

Mr. Centi felt that one of the best ideas to come out of the group was for a lobbyist. He believed that a lobbyist could make some significant changes. He stated that his department was looking at a comparative cost analysis of the City of Jamestown versus other municipalities. He said that information would be turned over to the real estate market.

Mayor Teresi suggested that the terms of the items be emphasized.

Co-Chair Ney asked that the Mayor and Mr. Centi make recommendations regarding the wording of the items to Ms. Nichols.

The members discussed working more closely with the County, business groups and foundations to aggressively market economic development opportunities in the City.

The group also discussed #5 under *Coordination and Effective Government* because there was confusion over the wording *streamline*. They decided to change the phrase to read *to provide quality services to our citizens, work with existing city employees to improve the efficiencies and effectiveness of City operations*. They subcategorized the following: *use measurable goals and develop feedback process among employees*.

Dr. Linden discussed other perceptions after meeting with groups the day before. He was under the impression that the department heads did not see a big problem with graffiti in the City when looking at the list. He also said that two of the groups that he had met with wondered why parking was not an addressed issue. He heard from other groups that parking was a perceived problem, not a real problem.

Councilwoman Bloomquist felt that people that came in from different areas and countries to visit MRC. would see the small amounts of graffiti in that area. She felt that many people would see that and make perceptions about Jamestown. She was concerned about others' perceptions of the City.

July 16, 2002

Mayor Teresi discussed the legal issue of going on to private property to clean up graffiti. He explained that when there is graffiti on public property it is taken care of almost immediately.

Co-Chair Ney felt that problems with parking arrive when new businesses come into town.

Mr. Trantum felt that there was a process on the way for the parking. He hoped that the problem would take care of itself. He thought that they could mention in their list that the process was underway for parking.

The next meeting was scheduled for August 7, 2002 at 8:00 a.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Shirley A. Sanfilippo, CMC, RMC
City Clerk