

Meeting Minutes  
October 24, 2007  
Ulster County Transit Center

Committee Member Attendees: Committee Chair Legislator Hector Rodriguez, Legislator Elizabeth Alfonso, Legislator Michael Berardi, Legislator Donald Gregorius, Legislator Peter Liepmann, and Legislator Peter Lourghan.

Excused: Legislator Mary Sheeley

Absent: Legislator Joseph Roberti

Other Attendees: Krista Barringer, UC Youth Bureau, Dennis Doyle, Director of UC Planning, March Gallagher, IDA, Lance Matteson, President UCDC, Cynthia Ruiz, Director UCAT, and Marcia Lima, Recording Secretary, OET.

Excused: Nancy E.K. Schaeff, Director OET

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chair Hector Rodriguez.

Krista Barringer, Director UC Youth bureau, addressed the committee with a flyer that will be distributed to the schools and youth programs in the county. The flyer will be personalized for each school, showing the time of pickups and the destination drop off. This is a partnered effort with UCAT, Youth Bureau, Youth Core, and Tourism. Legislator Rodriguez suggested a meeting be set up within the next couple of weeks to discuss further options for transportation for youth. Krista Barringer will set up the meeting with Cynthia Ruiz, Director – UCAT, Rick Remsnyder, Director – Tourism, and should include Nancy Schaeff, Director of UC OET.

## DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

**UC Development Corporation:** Lance Matteson, President of UCDC presented selected UCDC achievements during the past year.

1. Jobs retention/expansion and community facility projects: Some 2007 “Wins” (approximately \$20.8 million new investments and 240 new jobs).
2. Other Accomplishments: Over 950 general business inquiries, facilitated Ulster Tomorrow, participated in over 30 public discussions of economic development, participated in workforce development, facilitated three real estate or infrastructure development projects, and facilitated funding and startup of Hudson Valley Center for Innovation business incubator, producing 17 high tech jobs in the area.
3. Additional jobs/business/community facility prospects that UCDC actively assisted in 2007. There were 32 businesses and organizations listed and a short discussion ensued on a few interests.
4. Solar Consortium and Tech City. Announced. Partially funded with Federal and State dollars. Doing solar and solar manufacturing projects in Ulster County. Supported progress on environmental permit at Tech City.
5. Small Business Development Center (SBDC). Supported SBDC with \$10,000 IDA grant, preserving local business counselor, resulting in strong Ulster county small business impact.
6. Saugerties Shovel Ready Project approved (\$1 million for sewage and water infrastructure on Kings Highway Corridor).
7. Administered and monitored IDA projects (including time-consuming technical problem-solving, e.g. tax/PILOT and reporting issues for existing projects).

**Planning Department:** Dennis Doyle presented a Resolution authorizing the Chairman to enter into Contracts and Agreements with the Office for Small Cities (OSC), Cornell Cooperative Extension of UC (CCEUC) and others for the purpose of Effectuating a Farmworker Housing Rehabilitation Program.

A motion to accept the resolution was made by Legislator Michael Berardi, seconded by Legislator Don Gregorious and carried unanimously.

Information Items:

1. Planning Seminar – Planning Board Overview – Scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup>, UCCC Student Lounge from 7-9:30 p.m.
2. Mr. Doyle handed out for review a draft resolution for UC Open Space Plan which will be brought to the committee in Resolution form to be voted on at the November meeting.
3. Update on Purchase Development Rights (PDR) – Upcoming press event Davenport/Misner/Paul
4. Update on Ulster Housing Consortium/Public Information Campaign. \$15,550 will be used toward the campaign. Two Ulster County firms will be used, CRSR Designs and GMC Marketing.

**Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT):** Cynthia Ruiz had items that needed approval of the committee.

1. Supervisor vehicle-Suburban (in price range of \$35,000) with extra row of seats (7-8 people), also has plow option that Cynthia would like to purchase with money saved from the hybrid and diesel buses. Needs committee approval for \$370.
2. Tires – The cost is more than \$3,000 and needs the approval of the committee.
3. Form needs to be filled out in order to place the order for the two buses.
4. Fall Conference – Halsey King – “Maintenance Management From the Tool Box to the Front Line” would like approval to send UCAT personnel.
5. Conference (Transportation Planning), November 14 & 15- Would like approval to send Mary Howard
6. Certified Drivers Course- 19A. Every driver needs this course.

Resolution: Employee working out of title. Upgrade to Lead Mechanic (grade 12), geared for public transit. 90% of his salary is paid with federal funds, this year \$22 will be needed from UC funds and \$400 needed from UC funds for next year.

Motion to accept was made by Legislator Gregorious, seconded by Legislator Berardi and carried unanimously.

A few items were cut from the 2008 budget that Cynthia would like to appeal and would like to bring it to the committee for their support at the next meeting.

1. Reclassification for Mary Howard who is working out of title. Mary has a Masters Degree as a Certified Planner and Cynthia would like to move her to that title. If Mary does not get the reclassification Cynthia will have to hire a consultant to do the job Mary has already been doing.
2. Cynthia stated she is the only person in UCAT that is not being paid at a seven (7) hour rate, forty (40) hours a week. Cynthia is being paid at a lesser rate than her staff. It will cost the County \$890 a year to pay Cynthia at the same rate.

**Industrial Development Agency (IDA):** March Gallagher reported the IDA Web Site is coming together and the agency will be much more accessible. You will be able to get forms on line and calculate how many points you have under the matrix.

March met with the new head of the Regional Empire State Development (ESD) for our area. He has great ideas for marketing materials and Ulster County will benefit from his perspective.

With regards to Tech City, as Lance Matteson said, the permit modification is taking long. There was a meeting organized by Legislator Cahill with IBM regarding contamination on the property. Interesting discussion took place on a potential for alternative treatments that are being implemented in 5 or 6 other sites around the country. Doing it here is open for discussion. The treatment technology at IBM right now is wait and see.

Colony Liquors has made an application to the IDA. They asked for exception for prevailing wage requirement. Their argument is we are competing with Selkirk and without the exception we loose and they can not maintain their facility here. A hearing on their application will be on November 20, 2007. They are eligible for a fifteen (15) year pilot program. The way IDA policy is now, the uniform tax exception policy gives them the ability to deviate the policy. The IDA does not have the authority in the labor policy. Under \$5 million dollars IDA has exception you have to meet 75% of prevailing wage. Not for profit under \$75 million dollars has exception and exception if you are a project labor group with unions. It was asked, what is the definition of prevailing wages? March said prevailing wages were a set of schedules put out by the Department of Labor that are changed annually and is very complex. On a personal level Legislator Rodriguez voiced that he will fight any further modifications made to labor policies. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Resolution on Kingston-Ulster Airport Application from last month. Chair Legislator Rodriguez asked for a motion to accept the resolution. Moved by Legislator Berardi, seconded by Legislator Alfonso and carried unanimously.

Legislator Rodriguez handed out a survey on Economic Development that is being done state wide. He asked for the committee's indulgence to stay and fill out the survey.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Moved by all present.

**The next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, November 28, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at UCAT**

Respectfully submitted by Marcia Lima – UC OET