

October 25, 2007

Members Present:

C. Jessup, C. Crandall, E. Eicher, L. Gridley, T. Hopkins, F. Sinclair

Others Present: K. Dirlam, J. Foels, J. Grigg

Absent: B. Reynolds, R. Stuck

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by C. Jessup

Minutes:

Minutes from September 21, 2007 were reviewed:

On a motion by T. Hopkins and 2nd by L. Gridley the minutes were approved.

Results from our Public Forums:

A general discussion about the sessions was held. The group felt that they were worthwhile but would have liked to have more people attend. The Wellsville session was especially worthwhile due to the attendee's positions. Despite the mention of needing to do one on one sessions with different stakeholders no one felt that was realistic at this time but should be done in the future.

The Plan Review

John Foels stated that he likes the Economic Development plan for Greene County. He also would like to have a third party write the intro. He would like to sub this out to Rick McLay and will take care of this.

Fred Sinclair noted that the Vision and then the mission should strong and optimistic, 'this is what we are going to do' because "you reap what you sow". He feels that we should swing around the reality - "we have poor housing stock"...swing around..."we are going to do this about fostering quality housing...improving housing". He continued with the need for an optimistic attitude about improvements we will make (graphic look-and-feel).

Curt Crandall noted that the document should be a 'streamlined, down-and-dirty document' and focus on excitement. He also mentioned Sullivan County's planning tool that he likes.

When asked by Justin Grigg about discussing the planning effort with another Planning Consultant, John Foels said that going out to a third party is fine...for an outside perspective.

Fred Sinclair stated that the Dept of State does not 'pick apart' or 'reject' Comprehensive Plans, it accepts what you submit...trusts the local

John Foels stated that shared services committee needs to be created and told: "this is your mission"

The group put out some questions for planning consultant:

Where does the plan come out of...office of development?

Who is going to read this?

What is the objective of it?
Does it need to be sexy?
Do decision-makers read it or just want to know it exists?
Is it a framework to be filled in in the future?
Is it more than a grant-generating document?

Ed Eicher noted that the Table of Contents – ‘do not put in sections we don't need - if it is going to be empty drop it unless consultants say that you need that section for xxx reason’.

Fred Sinclair noted another section that said “Issues in Allegany County” should be - "Meeting the Challenges in Allegany County" instead of 'Issues'

Curt Crandall stated that ‘we don't want the document to leave people thinking this is the land of milk and honey without needs...get the realities and facts out there to show the need for funding.

Ed Eicher noted that the existing content being there gives us the luxury of talking about style.

Justin Grigg asked about the Future land use and what format it should be in. He was directed that this is an action item at this point, not a map.

Next Meeting:

- Set the next meeting date for November 12, 2007 at 6 pm

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm on a motion by L. Gridley and a 2nd by T. Hopkins.
Approved.