

CITY OF NEWBURGH
SUSTAINABLE MASTER PLANNING
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES & DEVELOPMENT FOCUS GROUP

Meeting Notes from Committee Meeting
Held on March 21, 2006, 3:00 P.M., City Hall

From: Cate Allgauer

Ref: City of Newburgh
Comprehensive Master Plan
Economic Development Committee
Meeting Notes: Tuesday, March 21, 2006

Attending: James Raimo: Chair, Catherine Allgauer, Dick Bedrosian, Melissa Everett, John Lonczak, Ian MacDougall (part of meeting), Bob McKenna (part of meeting), Gordon Rauer

The discussion centered on identifying specific Economic Development Goals, then the Assets that support those Goals need to be created. Gordon Rauer offered the following:

1. **Broadway Corridor:** The central business, commercial, social district that exemplifies the City – identified as widest boulevard in any city. Very little commercial space left; warehousing prospects may exist.
2. **Business Incubator:** Areas that are set up for shared services in a particular area, with tenants sharing the fees/cost of doing business for a fraction of the cost for individual enterprises; easy to establish; successful according to 1980's Syracuse University study.
3. **Natural Market:** Including riverfront enterprises; commercial, industrial, cultural and tourism. Dick pointed out that earlier plans, when OCCC took over Broadway School, never came to fruition.
4. **Fast Track:** Short list what the Businesses need to do to operate in the City - help fast track items with Planning or Zoning Boards, need to create a Real List and a Real Time Frame and make it as simple as possible for quality businesses.
5. **Clean City:** Must be a primary goal for the City; not so much spending money, but making certain the City is clean, clear of refuge, etc. so as to attract retail and commercial enterprises. As a side bar, Gordon noted that the Market decides which enterprises will succeed. Consider TC#1 Zoning: Tourist/Commercial area.
6. **Full Employment (aka less than 5% unemployed)** is a primary goal. The more businesses you have, the more competitive the salaries providing living wages. To be dissuaded are "Poverty Industry" enterprises: liquor stores, check cashing store fronts, slum landlords, etc.
7. **Development of Entrepreneurship:** create a climate of Incubatorship. Goal is for clean jobs for every adult; access to safe, adequately paying jobs (OSHA approved). Diverse, well trained in enterprising skills to run a business. Create an aura of

Newburgh as a City which fosters a spirit of entrepreneurship. Also employment for youth; to include co-operative education for youth that provides professional paths, employable skills, opens doors to diverse opportunities through internship programs.

8. Advocacy Groups for people with limited work ability; support systems that provide full potential for individuals rather than aid. Opportunities to earn income locally on every income level; telecommuting from home; flexible zoning areas. Economic/business opportunities in neighborhoods, i.e. St. Luke's, Mount Saint Mary College, Newburgh Free Library, etc. Encourage enterprises that contribute to the community and the environment.
9. Establish a vibrant social and cultural atmosphere.
10. Establish urban "green" houses; also the conception that Newburgh is a safe, clean city

After goals are established, determine the following:

1. Assets that support the Goals, or do not exist and need to be developed. Required material includes updated Census information: city's assets, housing, businesses, home-based enterprises, service industries, etc. Census information six years old.
2. Determine the number of people over the age of 18 years: the adult population; the percentage of NFA graduates who continue on to college; scoping the "underground" industry – legal and illegal economy.
3. Bank deposits: Melissa and Gordon to investigate.
4. City should implement a stream-lined policy for licensing business; do an actual count of current businesses; Real Estate, land and buildings: Bob McKenna will investigate. Transportation linkages; Riverfront as asset; Harbor Management Plans? Local waterfront revitalization plans (30 acres); current pending proposals; Ian will investigate. Urban property that could be turned into parks, gardens, buildings, etc.
5. NFA drop-out rate people streaming into the workforce: Gordon will study.
6. MSMC Alumni Survey: how many graduates remain in the region after graduation. Cate will consult the Director of Alumni Affairs.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING IS TUESDAY, APRIL 4TH at 2:30 p.m.