

**CITY OF NEWBURGH
SUSTAINABLE MASTER PLAN
NOTES FROM EDUCATION & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON FEBRUARY 1, 2006**

Attendees who signed Sign-In Sheet: Staff: Sara Pasti
Ramona Burton
Pam Krizek
Travis Hassell
Karen McCarthy
Mindy Ross
Rev. James Sherman
Tom Woodhull

Guests, from Mt. St. Mary's College:
Chris Lahar
Ben Levine
Amanda Reech
Jaclyn Ziegelman

Guest from Culture & Heritage Group:
Paul Ellis

Possible Consolidation of Focus Groups

The group discussed the possible consolidation of the Education & Recreation Focus Group with another group or groups, which might include the Health & Social Well-Being Focus Group or Culture & Heritage Focus Group. After much conversation, the Group decided that it did not want to merge with the Culture & Heritage Focus Group. Instead it wanted a representative from the Culture & Heritage Group to attend monthly meetings to bring to the table from the Culture & Heritage Group with an education component. Paul Ellis from the Culture & Heritage Group said that he would bring this suggestion back to his group.

With regard to the Health & Social Well-Being Group, some members of the Education Group suggested that perhaps those interested in Health issues could join the Education Group and those interested in Social Well-Being issues could join the Culture & Heritage Group.

Community Visioning Work – “Blast-Off to Plan-It Newburgh Weekend”

The group discussed events scheduled for the March 18-19 weekend. Pam Krizek described Newburgh's annual prayer service that will take place this year on Saturday, March 18 at 1PM. She said that there would be a 2-hour service involving children followed by a fair and booths from Newburgh's various community organizations. She indicated that Plan-It Newburgh should plan to bring and set up tables for a Community

Visioning booth. She also mentioned that each year the theme of the Prayer Service involves the word “hope.” This year’s theme is “Hear Our Hope: Home is Where the Heart is.” She said that H stands for Home, O for the openness of the Arts, P for Plan-It Newburgh and E for Education for Everyone.

Pam also mentioned that on April 7 at 3PM the Beloved Community March will take place and on April 8th will be the unveiling of the new Martin Luther King bust.

Ramona indicated that she is working with youth in the schools as part of a community service program to further the Plan-It Newburgh process and that the Coordination Team should coordinate its efforts in the School District with work already being done there. Sara said that she would make sure that all communication involving youth activities was coordinated with Ramona.

Focus Group Work – Asset Inventory Sheets

The group indicated that they wanted to see work done previously in the Group represented on the Asset Inventory Worksheets. Pam and Sara said that they would meet before the next Focus Group meeting to begin to put asset inventory work into the Worksheet format for review at the next meeting. They will also meet to review what research materials Group members had previously promised to bring to meetings, and encourage them to bring materials to the next meeting to be held on March 1st.

In closing, Group members noted that they wanted to see at the next meeting a map showing existing parks and open spaces in Newburgh so they could develop an understanding of where recreation activities took place throughout the City.

The meeting adjourned at 6PM. The next meeting of the Education Focus Group will take place on Wednesday, March 1 at 4:30PM at City Hall.

Upcoming events to be included on a Community Calendar for Master Planning Outreach, as follows:

MLK Weekend Events:

- **Saturday, January 14 – Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra – Newburgh Free Academy, 6-9PM** (event at 7PM)
 - Pam K. says that we can set up a table in lobby
- **Sunday, January 15 – Ebenezer Baptist Church – 7PM**
 - Event sponsored by the Black Ministerial Fellowship.
 - Sara P. to contact Pastor Byron Williams re questionnaire distribution at this event
- **Wednesday, January 18 – Newburgh Free Academy – 7-9PM**
 - Pam K. to contact Vern Bell, who works w/Rev. McLaren, re permission to have Plan-It Newburgh Information Table
 - Tom W. to contact Dr. Saturnelli re questionnaire distribution
- **POSSIBLE SPORTS COMPETITION: Zion Lions**
 - Harold Radford needs to be called re this and other Zion Lions events

Other Events:

- **Sunday, January 22 – Birthday Party for Ruskin Lewis (President, Bd of Education)**
 - Tom W. to inquire re Plan-It Newburgh Information Table
- **Thursday, February 2 – Monthly meeting of NAACP**
 - Sara P. to call Damon Finch for more information
- **Saturday, February 25 – Mardi Gras (need more information)**

The group discussed the Master Plan Timeline and requested information about the deliverables to be completed by the end of March. Does the group need to submit anything more than completed Asset Inventory Worksheets? Should the group also be working on a focus area vision and goals?

The group discussed additional individuals to be invited to monthly Stakeholder meetings, and suggested that Pat Malarkey and George Green from the Town of New Windsor, and Wayne Booth from the Town of Newburgh, be invited to attend and offer their perspective about future plans that will impact the City of Newburgh. (For example, the Towns of New Windsor and Newburgh are growing rapidly and are expected to result in a significant increase in student population for the City of Newburgh Enlarged School District.)

Additional schools that are not a part of the School District that should be contacted for information about their future plans are:

- St. Joseph's School (school in New Windsor, parish in Newburgh)
- Bishop Dunn School (on the Mt. St. Mary's property)
- St. Mary's – Headstart program
- Sacred Heart / St. Francis
- Leptondale Christian Academy (located on Rte. 300 in Newburgh)

Question: Does the Jewish Community Center offer programs that serve the City of Newburgh residents?

- Iris S. will call to inquire about programs

The group discussed the presentation of a report about the Education Focus Group's current findings and agreed to ask Pam Buxton if she would be willing to report on what was discussed at the two Education Focus Group meetings and the status of the Group's work.

Pam K. as Facilitator will e-mail to all Education Focus Group members reminding them of what individual members have volunteered to undertake on behalf of the group.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1 at 4:30PM.

NOTE:

The volunteer task list from the last meeting includes the following:

- Sara Espinoza/Pam Buxton – Will bring youth survey from 2002 Communities That Care
- Tom Woodhull – Will check with Board of Education re posting Questionnaire on Board of Education web-site and in newsletters for Newburgh Supervisors, Newburgh Administrators, PTAs, PTOs, and Compact News
(Note: When questionnaires get sent to schools, a cover sheet should be provided indicating where completed questionnaires should be returned (Main Office, etc.)
- Tim Conley – Will bring to the next information and studies re Audrey Carey Park and other City parks. Will also research the various recreation organizations that exist in Newburgh.
- Pam Krizek – Will contact the Orange County Youth Bureau for their list of programs and activities for youth. Will call Harriman Technology Center re assistance in developing information kiosks for youth activities.
- Sara Pasti – Will follow-up with Logan Miller re information kiosk technology (with NYSCATE, Microsoft & Orange/Ulster BOCES)