



May 10, 2012

CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS
GAPS Committee
Agenda

6:00 PM

- Call to Order
- Approval of 4/12/12 Committee minutes
- Public Comment Period
- Workshop – City Council Proposal
- Discussion – need for another meeting & date
- Adjourn

ADJOURN



April 10, 2012

CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS
GAPS Committee
Meeting
City Council Room

PRESENT: Commissioner Franck
Supervisor Matt Veitch
Amy Durland
Stephen Towne
Clark Brink (arrived at 6:22 p.m.)
Rick Fenton
Geoff Bornemann

EXCUSED: Dennis Brobston
Bill Sprengnether

RECORDING OF PROCEEDING

The proceedings of this meeting were taped for the benefit of the secretary. Because the minutes are not a verbatim record of the proceedings, the minutes are not a word-for-word transcript.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Franck called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Amy Durland moved and Supervisor Veitch seconded to approve the 4/12/12 minutes as distributed.

Ayes – 5
Abstention – 1 (Geoff Bornemann)

Public Comment Period

Bobby D'Andrea of 523 Crescent Avenue stated he owns 30 acres that borders Route 9 and Columbia Avenue. He has been trying to develop that land for years. That area and the upper part of the entrance to the City need a shot in the arm. If a sewer district could be put in, it would help with development.

Commissioner Franck advised the city engineer attended on of the earlier meetings and stated it was cost prohibitive to put a sewer line in. With the economy the way it is, the state doesn't have the money to help.

Mr. D'Andrea stated the federal government is still pumping money into different cities for projects. He had hopes to put in apartments on his property. He questioned if the County may be interested to do part of the project.

Commissioner Franck reminded all that the County has put a moratorium on the building around Saratoga Lake as its sewer line is at capacity.

Mr. D'Andrea stated with Global Foundries paying a lot into that sewer district; their funds may be more solid.

Commissioner Franck closed the public hearing at 6:24 p.m.

Workshop – City Council Proposal

Commissioner Franck stated to move this forward he would like to get as close to a final draft by May with some kind of presentation to the Council the first meeting in June. He suggested the circulation of the document and let everyone make comment. Then they can have one final meeting to sign off on the document.

Clark Brink stated he feels we have consensus and it is just a matter of wording.

Stephen Towne suggested developing a slick document that puts a 360° view together of this area. The recommendations need to be hard-hitting, unique, quality ideas that are different from variations of things thought about and tried before. We need to focus our energies to identify what are the bold and the new ideas. What are the 'game changing' points?

Supervisor Veitch stated the park idea and the anchor ideas are good ones. How do we market areas of our City that have trouble? He suggested not getting into the zoning.

Stephen Towne stated the document has to have a 'buzz' factor. He is concerned their focus has to pointed and sharp.

Commissioner Franck stated some type of history has to be shown for contrast.

Supervisor Veitch stated when the Comprehensive Plan Committee meets, they need to be able to look at this document as a starting point for their discussion.

Rick Fenton stated he wonders how much is dependent upon how the document is structured and how much is how you speak to the press, City Hall, etc. There are a lot of good ideas that are dependent upon other things.

Commissioner Franck asked for the 'wow' factors being referred to.

Stephen Towne stated there are spot zoning issues, sewer issues, but what brought this committee together is Lincoln Avenue to West Fenlon. We are talking about what we can do to change that area from an eye-sore. We can change the identity of that whole area with a real unusual high quality anchor. One thing he suggested is taking our land use boards to the front to help us shape a driving type of entity to help us change the identity of that area.

Commissioner Franck stated we should mention the other areas, but he never looked at them being prominent in this report. People are going to want to see pictures of what it is going to look like. This will help move it in the right direction.

Stephen Towne clarified that he doesn't feel there is a 'wow' factor out there. They just need to get people to stop and think differently.

Commissioner Franck stated we are at the point today that we need to start putting this report together. We will have an executive summary in the report.

Supervisor Veitch stated a pocket park sounds nice to him. Park-n-ride and a tourism center are ideas for that area.

Amy Durland stated drawings are a great way to put the vision out there. People can relate to that.

Clark Brink stated in theory a T-5 gives vast flexibility and efficiencies to execute that vision. Public input is the perception is they don't want to go there because it will be difficult. We need to acknowledge that as part of the challenge.

Stephen Towne stated that would be part of the marketing plan.

Clark Brink stated this Committee is ambassadors. The biggest thing they can bring to the table is advocacy.

Stephen Towne stated there are companies that have the opened minded pioneering mentality. As part of the marketing we are going to have to go out and find them.

Clark Brink stated we host conventions. Is there something we can include in their packets that advertise South Broadway as an opportunity?

Amy Durland asked if they want to get into a process where they are pulling in people (i.e. land use, public or private) or do we want to cultivate our vision or establish more of a vision first.

Commissioner Franck stated his main concern is to prevent this from getting away from them and nothing being accomplished. The main body of the report is going to be the 2 ½ blocks and zoning is not the problem.

Stephen Towne stated this process is a relay. It is up to the Council to decide and hand-off. He feels SEDC needs to play a role.

Clark Brink stated he believed there was a grass-roots citizen based campaign to get Trader Joe's to Albany. If we can create that feel...

Commissioner Franck stated the report is going to be about here is our problem on Route 9 south, the situation in the middle, and then the meat of the report. We have come full circle.

Amy Durland stated there needs to be some conceptualization of ideas for that area. It is good that we have come back to that.

Clark Brink asked if there is a link on the City's website of development opportunities. Is that a place we want to go?

Commissioner Franck stated that may be a legal problem. There are advertising rules with a municipality.

Amy Durland confirmed that we could post a visual concept on the City's website.

Commissioner Franck stated that is correct.

Stephen Towne stated SEDC becomes the marketing arm but not just for the City of Saratoga Springs. The more specific we can make this, the easier it will be for people to visual the ideas.

Rick Fenton stated he feels the 3 reports he has from the Committee are basically the same.

Public Comment Period

John Wainwright of 80 Crescent Street stated there has been a lot of talk about how we are going to say it but not as much about what we are going to say. It would be good to hear more ideas. Who is going to use this region – specifically say what you want to do on South Broadway is for the locals and tourists. In terms of timing, get something out there for the track season.

Commissioner Franck stated in 2007, Matt McCabe did an extensive survey. It listed 4 or 5 things that people wanted to see in the City. It was circulated to different areas and businesses.

Discussion – Need for Another Meeting & Date

The Committee agreed this can be done on line and then a quick meeting to vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Veitch moved and Clark Brink seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes – All

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Ribis
Clerk

Approved: