

CAPITAL DISTRICT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEETING

March 15, 2006, 8:30am
CDRPC Conference Room
One Park Place
Albany, New York 12205

MINUTES

PRESENT: Willard Bruce, Lucille McKnight, Judy Breselor, Stan Brownell, Jayne Regan Harris, James Shaughnessy, Michael Stammel, Fred Acunto, Chris Callaghan, Raymond Gillen, Gary Hughes, Barbara Mauro, Michael Petta, David Vincent
Staff: Rocky Ferraro, David Lang Wardle, Todd Fabozzi, Leif Engstrom, Donna Reinhart

ABSENT: Betty Barnette, Henry Dennis, John Graziano, Spencer Hellwig, John Murray, Phil Barrett

PRESIDING: Fred Acunto, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30am

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Larry Rulison from the Times Union, Mary Witkowski from Mike Breslin's office, David Galletly, Marion Wise and Allen Chartock from WAMC, and Bill Hooton and George Klapischak from Capital District Trade Strategies were in attendance.

2. COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP CHANGE

Fred Acunto introduced Judy Breselor as the new representative from Rensselaer County. Judy is the Planning Director for the City of Troy. Her term of appointment, along with the other Commissioners from Rensselaer County, is through December 31, 2009.

3. JANUARY 18, 2006 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes were distributed before the meeting. No corrections were made.

Action Taken

Lucille McKnight made a motion to approve the minutes and David Vincent seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. YEAR ENDING 2005 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Rocky reported that this statement reflects a final un-audited financial statement for 2005. The revenues were at 97.0% of the approved budget while expenses were at 95.0%. There is a net revenue over expenditures of approximately \$8500 for the year.

CAPITAL DISTRICT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

These financial records will be provided to the auditor, Dorfman-Robbie, as part of the 2005 audit of our financial records.

Action Taken

Mike Stammel made a motion to accept the Financial Statement, and Jayne Regan Harris seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2006

This statement represents the current financial statement through February 2006. Invoices were sent to each of the four counties. We have received payment from all of counties except for Rensselaer County.

The contracting entities are not reflected on this financial statement because they are all billed on a quarterly basis. Those bills will go out the first week of April. The expenses represent two months of activities, which include agency memberships and GIS software license renewal.

There is approximately \$134,500 cash in the bank at this time and receivables totaling just under \$46,000.

Action Taken

Mike Stammel made a motion to accept the Financial Statement, and Lucille McKnight seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. WAMC EDA PROPOSAL

Rocky introduced David Galletly, Executive Vice President, Marion Wise, Grants Officer and Allen Chartock, President of WAMC to the Commissioners.

WAMC, Northeast Public Radio had requested that the Central Ave. Revitalization Project be listed for inclusion on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the Capital Region (CEDS) approved project list in order that they may apply to the EDA for partial project funding for the proposed improvements.

David Galletly from WAMC made a presentation on the facility improvements and the five capital projects proposed totaling nearly \$3.5 million. Just under \$1 million is being sought in their application to the EDA. Those five capital projects are: Performing Arts Studio (PAS) interior capital projects, building repairs or equipment upgrades; WAMC Radio Studios and Offices capital projects or building repairs; WAMC Annex Building capital projects or building repairs; Expanded PAS Parking LOT; WAMC Investment/Expansion Building.

Marion Wise added that this project of fixing the existing buildings around their facility and expanding parking is to attract small businesses to the area around the WAMC facilities and on Central Avenue.

CAPITAL DISTRICT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Ms. Wise stated that this project is viewed as a driver of economic development on Central Avenue, which will attract more businesses and create jobs.

Fred Acunto inquired if there is any impact on the residence in the area. Mr. Galletly responded that at this time there is no impact on the residence.

Lucille McKnight expressed concern regarding area residence and elected leaders in Albany not being aware of this project and what kind of impact this could have on their neighborhoods. Discussions that Lucille had with Councilman Ellis, the leader of the West Hill Neighborhood and the President of the Albany City Common Council, suggested hiring minorities from the community during the process of development and after the project is completed. Alternative parking was also suggested for the people who live along Sherman Street for emergency situations like snow removal and cleanup.

Ms. McKnight also mentioned that Mr. Ellis indicated that he would like to serve on the Community Advisory Board to develop a relationship between WAMC and the residents to get them more involved.

Marion Wise added that WAMC has a number of projects involving students from the Albany City School District, which includes bringing in elementary students for arts and education programs. WAMC is also doing the Youth Media Project Student Town Meetings, which is serving urban and rural high schools throughout the Capital District. Ms. Wise indicated that this is a critical thinking media literacy project that is funded by a number of foundations.

David Vincent inquired if there was an overall strategy for parking established by the City of Albany. Bill Bruce replied that the City of Albany is working very closely with the Albany Parking Authority and the Central Avenue Business Improvement District on these parking issues.

Action Taken

Chris Callaghan made a motion to approve the WAMC Central Avenue Revitalization Project on CDRPC's CEDS approved project list. Gary Hughes seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. FOREIGN TRADE ZONE UPDATE

The agreement between CDRPC and Capital District Trade Strategies (CDTS) was signed and they will serve as the administrator of the Foreign Trade Zone Program. A copy of the goals, objectives and 2006 timeline to undertake the actions outlined in the plan were distributed before the meeting.

Protective Industrial Products (PIP), located in the Northeastern Industrial Park, has requested to enter into an agreement with CDRPC to operate a Foreign Trade Zone at their facility. A cost/benefit analysis by PIP revealed significant savings for them to

CAPITAL DISTRICT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

undertake some or all of their activities within a Foreign Trade Zone. The Galesi Group/DUI strongly supports their application.

The User/Operator Agreement with CDRPC outlines their responsibilities to CDRPC, as Grantee. Board action is requested to allow the CDRPC Chair to sign the agreement between CDRPC and Protective Industrial Products, Inc.

Action Taken

Gary Hughes made a motion to authorize CDRPC Chair to sign the agreement between CDRPC and Protective Industrial Products. Lucille McKnight seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. LTCP – CSO UPDATE

The contract has been signed and approved by New York State and an advance check of \$500,000.00 was received. The contracts for Part A have also been signed with the Consultant Team to proceed with the scope of work. The Public Participation Plan is being finalized and reviewed by the Technical Committee and a final plan is expected to be approved at the next meeting, which is scheduled for March 23, 2006.

The Public Participation Plan is a continuation of the Technical Committee, which are six representatives from each of the communities and adhoc members as well. A Citizen's Advisory Committee is expected to be created which will include a larger range of stakeholders such as neighborhood groups, environmental representatives that are interested in improving the Hudson River and members of other State Agencies.

There will be four rounds of public hearings/meetings that are required under the LTCP. These public hearings/meetings will be held at critical junctures during the development of the plan. There will also be presentations to the legislators and municipal leadership meetings. Some of the public meetings will be consolidated to be more cost effective. The City of Cohoes, the Village of Green Island and the City of Watervliet will have one public meeting, while the other communities may consolidate their public meetings as well.

The Citizen Participation Plan outline will be presented to the Technical Committee at the next meeting to be included in the plan.

David Vincent inquired what type of information will the Committee be seeking from the public at these meetings. Leif Engstrom responded that both environmental and neighborhood groups will be invited to the meetings. The focus is to build on their expertise and knowledge and what their visions are as for a cleaner river and the costs associated with any proposed improvements.

Mike Stammel inquired if the residents would want to talk about infrastructure and how that would change their neighborhoods as far as future construction of pipes that need to be changed.

CAPITAL DISTRICT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

That is certainly an issue that should be raised within their communities so the technical committee can bring the concerns and desires of the community back to the engineers.

9. PROPOSED WIND ENERGY CONTRACT

The New York State Association of Region Councils (NYSARC) has submitted, at the request of NYSERDA, a proposal to provide technical support to communities in the development and siting of wind energy conversion systems. CDRPC, along with the other regional councils would provide community education and outreach and technical assistance services.

The Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Council will be the lead agency for this grant proposal. The scope of work will be for a two year period beginning April, 2006 and continuing through March 31, 2008. CDRPC would receive up to \$45,000 to complete our share of the scope of work involving the communities of the Capital Region.

Rocky is requesting action from the Commission to allow the Chair to sign a contract with NYSEDA for CDRPC to participate in this project.

Fred Acunto suggested getting the contract out to the board for their review before signing. The contract should be ready within the next several weeks.

Action Taken

A motion was made by Lucille McKnight to notify the Commission via email when the contract is ready to be signed and a determination will be made for the Chair to sign or discuss at the next meeting. Mike Petta seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

10. PROPOSED LAND USE TRAINING LEGISLATION

A bill was introduced in both the New York State Assembly and Senate amending general municipal law to promote training opportunities for municipal and zoning officials. If passed and signed by the Governor, the bill would require that members of planning and zoning boards be required to receive a minimum of four hours of land use training annually. The training can include attending workshops, distance learning, videos, or through self-study.

The bill would also allow a municipality to pass a resolution to waive or adjust the amount of training required for planning and zoning boards.

If the Commission is interested in supporting this Bill, Rocky will send a letter of support to the Assembly and the Senate.

Mike Stammel mentioned that people that are appointed to planning and zoning boards should know what the legal requirements are and training would definitely benefit small local boards.

CAPITAL DISTRICT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Concern was expressed by several members about the option to opt out diluting the value of the requirement. It was noted that that option can be pursued only after a public hearing and the passage of a resolution by the community to do so.

Judy Breselor added that she has been on the Legislative Committee that recommended the Bill to the Legislature for the last several years. The opting out option is primarily focused toward the rural communities that have a hard time recruiting members to serve on the Boards and whose members may not have access to training opportunities and/or computers. Judy also mentioned that the committee will look at this issue again in the future to see if that option still should be permitted.

Action Taken

Mike Stammel made a motion to send the letter of support, and Gary Hughes seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

11. ESTIMATING THE FISCAL IMPACT OF ALTERNATIVE FUTURES IN THE CAPITAL REGION

CDRPC has signed a contractual agreement with CEG to analyze the fiscal impact of alternative population growth scenarios in the region. The work is part of a collaborative effort involving CEG, CDRPC and CDTC and the University of Albany Dept of Geography and Planning.

Rocky did a PowerPoint Presentation showing four alternative growth patterns that are being evaluated based on two sets of projections. CDRPC's targeted projections showing an increase of 90,500 persons to 885,800 by 2040 and a "high growth" scenario that assumes the rate of population growth in the Capital Region will be comparable to the national rate of approximately 1% per year or a 309,200 increase to 1,103,500 by 2040.

The results of the study will provide the basis for a constructive regional/community dialogue about what public policy options may be worth pursuing to manage the direction of future growth to achieve fiscal stability.

A copy of the presentation is provided.

12. STAFF ACTIVITY REPORT

The Staff Activity Report was distributed before the meeting. There was no discussion.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Bill Hooton from Capital Trade Strategies added that they have purchased the license of the World Trade Center to offer local businesses the opportunity to engage in the global market place and offer them information on exports/imports and transactions.

CAPITAL DISTRICT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Bill also added that they are negotiating with a few companies at this time to establish distribution operation centers in the Albany area.

Fred Acunto inquired if the Board could get a status report of the unfinished business in the Strategic Plan that was discussed at the last retreat.

Adjournment

Mike Stammel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Gary Hughes seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John Graziano
Secretary