

Strategic Plan Committee

Pillar Team Members Meeting September 11, 2018

In attendance:

Mike McCann, Carla Hinkle, Carrie Wetstein, Jamie Gerken, Jerry Hayes, John Lehner, Liz Keel, Richanne Mankey, Rita Kissner, Niki Warncke, Jeff Leonard, Debbie Stevens

Absent: Louie Rivera, Jr.

Pillar Progress Reports:

Pillar 1: Connectivity: Carrie Wetstein

- ODOT Mobility Manager Update: Funding was awarded for 2019 and since 2018 was not used it will be carried over. There is a possibility to partner with Henry County but will need ODOT permission to do so. A formal meeting will be set up soon to discuss this further. Looking to the future for collaboration with the four county area to work together on transportation.
- Infrastructure for Downtown 5G WiFi - no update to report.

Jerry Hayes: The Technology Committee of the Comprehensive Economic Development (CED) group has a good-sized strategy plan for a connectivity component.

Niki Warncke:

- Received a \$400,000 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant through ODOT to use for sidewalks to connect Ottawa Avenue for a safe school route and to the YMCA.
- The City also received a \$500,000 Neighborhood Revitalization Grant for the Eastside of Defiance for streets, sidewalks, playground, etc. to connect the neighborhood.

Pillar 2: Culture and Education: Rita Kissner (Cultural) and Richanne Mankey (Education)

(Cultural) Rita Kissner

- There have been several conversations regarding the development of the 1918 Campus Building and the auditorium in particular. Rita asked if the auditorium would be the schools responsibility or if a developer would be responsible for improvements. We need to consider accommodating the school if a developer takes it over. The preference would be having a separate entity run it preferably one with a 501C3 status. The auditorium is utilized by many different entities and organizations and whoever takes ownership of the auditorium would have to consider and accommodate them. It was mentioned that the developer meet with the school board on their preference of ownership.

Mike McCann: This Friday, Doug Bush, Defiance ProMedica President is hosting the Board of Control and others to tour the Toledo Steam Plant and meeting with Randy Oostra, President and CEO of ProMedica. The group will be asking him if he's willing to commit to make demolition money available if we can't find a repurpose for the 1918 Campus Building. Mike seemed optimistic of ProMedica committing to this request. Hospitality groups are coming to Defiance the same day to look at the building on the hospitality side.

(Education) Richanne Mankey:

- Defiance College was hoping to partner with the auditorium to start a Minor in Musical Theatre for the future and mention that the college is a 5013C – something to think about.
- Richanne has had education and ecosystem conversations throughout the summer with various individuals but needs to bring the group together and brainstorm this fall.

- In July at the Town and Gown Summit in BGSU, several individuals from this group presented the process of our Community SPC plan that we recently developed. Richanne would like to host this summit in Defiance next year.

Mike McCann: Head Start will be staying at the Armory Building for another five years unless another developer is interested in it.

Pillar 3: Economic Development: Jerry Hayes, Carla Hinkle, and John Lehner

Jerry Hayes:

- Distributed an executive summary of the Comprehensive Economic Development strategy (CEDS) Plan. This is a five-county strategy, but there could be potential funding for the city. Emma Kirkpatrick at MVPO is doing a great job with this.
- For the Rural Regional Transportation Plan, Jerry submitted Enterprise Industrial Park (EIP) with their 2nd Access Road to go on this list.
- East Commerce Drive Project is coming along. The property has been purchased. The expansions at DMP, Johns Manville, and the highway and street news (Karnes Avenue, Roundabouts, Eastside revitalization) help tell our story in a good way.
- The Decked Company is moving into the Elliott Road Building. They will start with 12-14 employees and will grow next year. The CFO states that sales are up 50% over 2017, and are excited to come to Defiance.

Pillar 4: Health and Wellness: Jamie Gerken

- Distributed a handout on her action plans with getting out consistent messaging with park signage that supports health and wellness.
- She taped a program with DCTV on overall Wellness – which includes health and mental health.
- From the survey results for the Health in all Policy, the group will focus on two target items – sidewalks, connectivity pertaining to accessibility, block parties, etc. to connect with each other.
- The Mental Health Campaign is in its 2nd year and doing well.
- A data team is forming now to gather data from several areas to use as a data repository for statistics, maps, etc.
- The Community Health Assessment survey was recently completed and releasing the results at ProMedica on October 16, 2018

Mike McCann:

- The book “Building a Vibrant Community” was shared and suggested to the group to read it or the part that pertains to each.
- There will be a meeting with Van Wert Mayor Mazur on October 9th to discuss their recent housing project. The Montrose Group is the planning group for them.
- The SOS Group, led by Ralph Hahn, is focusing on senior housing for the 1918 Campus Building. They are working with Poggemeyer Design Group on grant funding.
- The City and the Sansalone Group is focusing on a boutique-style hotel, condo’s, apartments, restaurant, bar, event area, and auditorium.
- In his opinion, the highest and best use of the building should get the building.

Pillar 5: Housing: Liz Keel

- Liz is waiting on the completion of the City Survey results to take some action - 455 surveys submitted.
- Liz met with Rita Kissner on drafting a Housing Committee with three sub-committees to include Development, Code and Housing Improvements, and Media Marketing. She is open to suggestions.

Niki Warncke:

Pete DiSalvo from the DiSalvo Development Advisors is in the first month of meeting with key individuals on gathering information for the City Housing Market Analysis Project. This will take a few months to complete.

Pillar 6: Perception: Luis Rivera, Jr. (absent)

- Per Mayor McCann, surveys will be distributed at the Rib Fest on Saturday, September 29, 2018.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 6, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. (Election Day) – location TBD.