

Community Strategic Plan Committee

Pillar Team Members Meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 2019

In attendance:

Mayor Mike McCann, Carla Hinkle, Carrie Wetstein, Jamie Gerken, John Lehner, Rita Kissner, Niki Warncke, Luis Rivera, Jr., Debbie Stevens, Special Guest Chris Van Scoder the new Director of the Chamber of Commerce, and Councilman David Plant

Absent: Richanne Mankey, Liz Keel, Jerry Hayes

Mayor Mike McCann welcomed the group and appreciated everyone efforts on the progress on all of the pillars. It looks like we are making great strides thus far.

PILLAR PROGRESS REPORTS:

PILLAR 1: Connectivity: Carrie Wetstein

- Work continues with Maumee Valley Planning Organization (MVPO) on the Mobility Manager Position. Triangular Processing, Inc. in Wauseon will house the Mobility Manager person. As a side note, Triangular Processing, Inc. provides vocational opportunities, programming, transportation, and other services to individuals who are developmentally and intellectually challenged. Fulton, Henry, and Defiance counties are working together on this newly created position and are asking ODOT for funding to continue through 2020. A goal is to expand the existing Henry County Transportation Network to benefit Fulton and Defiance Counties as well. ODOT would like to see a collaborative effort in these counties on this project. ODOT recently awarded a grant to the Henry County Transportation Network for vehicles.
- Pedestrian transportation during the Clinton Street Bridge Closure was discussed. The flex ride program will be reinstated and renamed for the nine months that the Clinton Street Bridge is closed and strictly used for folks who were either dependent on walking or cycling across the bridge previously. K&P Medical transport will assist with transportation and NOCAC agreed to facilitate the screening and scheduling for the program. An appointment must be made in advance and must pass the screening process first through NOCAC. This will be used as a last resort for transportation assistance after exhausting all prior transportation avenues. Carrie is recommending a quiet launch of this to certain social service agencies/organizations indicating that this is an option. A transportation screening flow chart will be distributed to each agency so they can determine a person's eligibility to use this service when all other transportation avenues have been exhausted. The goal is to not have NOCAC bombarded with unnecessary calls by using this flow chart. Carrie has a list of the social service agencies and will draft a letter to include the flow chart and send this to all involved. This program will be a work in progress and evaluated throughout the months ahead while reporting back to Board of Control on the usage. This program will be paid by the City of Defiance. Debbie Stevens will set up a meeting soon to discuss the final details of the renamed/reinstated flex ride program with Deb Gerken or Angie Franklin from NOCAC, Aaron Keller from K&P Medical Transport, Ltd., United Way Director Carrie Wetstein, City Finance Director John Lehner, City Law Director Sean O'Donnell, and Mayor Mike McCann. NOCAC may have suggestions on how to advertise this to the public.
- Mayor Mike McCann had a broadband discussion with a representative from Congressman Bob Latta's office who had conversations with Verizon who is working on a 5G program for the City of Defiance in the private sector. Rural areas are being worked on as well by Verizon.

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

(Cultural) Rita Kissner

- Niki Warncke distributed a DRAFT COPY of the DiSalvo Development Advisors, LLC Study Report on the Housing Opportunities Analysis. This should not be being it is only in DRAFT form. The DiSalvo Study shows that the City of Defiance is in desperate need for housing options, supporting 274 to 386 new units built over the next three years. The upper level floors of downtown buildings including the empty buildings would make great apartments. In addition, there is much discussion of infill housing in areas where the infrastructure is already in place.
- Currently, there are two different projects as options for the 1918 Building:
 1. The **hotel/dining-bar-restaurant/event area project**. Another developer interested in this site and a conceptual plan has been drafted. The feasibility study shows that this option is a strong possibility for the 1918 Building, which will generate more taxes for our economy and become a catalyst for redevelopment in the downtown and along the riverfront.
 2. The **senior housing project**. Rental units for ages 55+. There is a developer involved but no conceptual design to date and is dependent on the funding in place including tax credits which could take years to receive.

A clean deed is still needed on the school property. The school will maintain ownership of the Auditorium area which needs storage space as well. The school board will decide on the option for the 1918 Building. There is a strong need for senior housing in Defiance and this could be located in areas other than the 1918 Building.

(Education) Richanne Mankey: Absent.

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

Carla Hinkle:

- There is a lot happening on the Economic Development side and some she cannot discuss publically yet.
- Workforce Development: There is a meeting on Thursday, January 10, 2019 to discuss the “Impact 419’s Young Adult Workforce Pathways Program” initiative partnering with Northwest State Community College, the Dream Center, Defiance County Ohio Jobs, and Defiance County Economic Development. This will be an eight-week training session for 18-30 year-old residents of Defiance or Paulding Counties to receive certificates free of charge to give them the skills that trade employers need now. There is an Open House and Information Session at the Defiance Dream Center on January 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
- Business courses would be needed as well if someone wants to start their own business to gain the knowledge and skills needed in order to do so.
- Educators recognize the need for trade skills and are working with Four County Career Center.
- The Defiance CIC just updated their website and encouraged all to review it. <https://www.defecon.com/>
- Jerry Hayes will be retiring at the end of 2019 and a search for his replacement will begin soon.

Pillar 4: Health and Wellness: Jamie Gerken

- The Health Equity in Defiance County Report was distributed, which includes census tracking and social determinants of health. This group would like to present this information to villages, commissioners, and City Council soon.
- The GIS group is working on a mapping project on different indicators.
- Jamie Gerken would like to present the “Health in All Policy” to City Council soon.
- The city and the Health Department are looking at the University of Toledo for potential collaboration for focus groups for water quality issues and riverfront recreation.
- Jamie Gerken is working on the Health Improvement Planning and the priorities chosen were to focus on mental health and various forms of addiction.

- Instagram is now an active social media outlet in the Defiance County Health Department and will be posting information on health data to this site.
- A monthly newsletter will be sent to organizations and agencies that talk about various health messages. This information can be posted and/or forwarded to all employees.

Pillar 5: Housing: Liz Keel (Absent, Rita reported)

- The group has invited several people to join a Housing Committee. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 23, 2019 in Council Chambers at 3:00 p.m.
First meeting will be to:
 - 1.) Introduce members
 - 2.) Review the progress of the Strategic Planning Group, Housing Survey, etc.
 - 3.) Form sub-committees:
 - a.) Development
 - b.) Housing code improvement
 - c.) Marketing

Pillar 6: Perception: Luis Rivera, Jr.

- The Perception Team is working on the SWAT analysis outcomes. This team is planning to meet on January 24, 2019. Through this SWAT analysis, it was discovered that there is a definite disconnect with Defiance College and the Defiance community. Luis is attending a Developing Diverse Leadership class with Defiance College students. An outcome of this could result in college student's job shadowing in the Defiance area.
- Defiance College President Richanne Mankey's goal is to have Defiance be a college town and not a town with a college. It was mentioned in the meeting that for the first time, a Defiance College football coach has met with a Defiance High School football coach. The new DC football coach, Manny Matsakis is making great strides on connecting the college with the community.
- Luis mentioned the need for a Public Information Officer (PIO) for the City of Defiance to be the first person to push the positivity and correct information happening in Defiance. The group all agreed. Rita Kissner mentioned that Debbie Stevens has been doing a great job on pushing positive and accurate information on to the City's website, NIXLE notices, and the City's Facebook page to keep it up-to-date.
- Jamie Gerken mentioned there is a Basic PIO Training Course scheduled on May 13-15, 2019 at the Defiance EMA building hosted by the Defiance County Emergency Management Agency and delivered by Ohio Emergency Management Agency. The website to sign up for this three-day course is: <https://trainingcampus.dps.ohio.gov/cm/cm710/pstc/pstc.html>.

Rita Kissner also mentioned that Debbie Stevens' minutes from these meetings have been excellent and asked if we could share the SPC Pillar Group Minutes with the Defiance 2100 Group via Carol Martinez at ProMedica, to the original list of people on the Strategic Planning Committee that was facilitated by Kathy LaSota, and to City Council to keep them apprised of the progress. These minutes will also be put on the City's website soon.

Councilman David Plant asked if there could be a reference to a Pillar included in all ordinances moving forward. He also would like one Pillar Group at a time to attend a City Council meeting to share the progress made on each Pillar regarding the Defiance Community Strategic Plan.

Mike McCann invited the new Chamber of Commerce President Chris Van Scoder to attend the meetings when she is able so she is aware of the group's progress.

A Next meeting: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. (from 11:30 a.m.) to 5:00 p.m. just this meeting.