

Community Strategic Plan
Pillar Team Members Meeting
Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

In attendance:

Mayor Mike McCann, Defiance County Health Commissioner Jamie Gerken, United Way Executive Director Carrie Wetstein, City Finance Director John Lehner, City Planner Niki Warncke, MVPO Housing Coordinator Liz Keel, Past City Mayor Rita Kissner, Defiance County Economic Development Executive Director Jerry Hayes, Defiance County Workforce Development Manager Carla Hinkle, Next Gen Luis Rivera, Jr., DDVB Executive Director Kirstie Mack

Absent: Defiance College President Richanne Mankey, Defiance ProMedica President Doug Bush, Defiance City Schools Superintendent Bob Morton, Councilman David Plant, City Executive Assistant Debbie Stevens

The Mayor began the meeting at 11:00 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance. He promptly handed the meeting over to Yvonne Dale, Yvonne Dale Graphics to discuss the new logo for the Community Strategic Plan. Yvonne gave a brief overview of the past meeting she had attended in July 2019. She shared the logo that she has developed after all the comments were gathered in the July meeting. After much discussion, the group agreed the logo looked great. Yvonne will develop a “branding kit” to be sent out to all Pillar Team leaders for use in reports and correspondence.

PILLAR PROGRESS REPORTS:

CULTURE AND EDUCATION PILLAR: RITA KISSNER (CULTURE) & RICHANNE MANKEY (EDUCATION)

RICHANNE MANKEY: ABSENT

RITA KISSNER: Education

- The Education Group consists of: Bob Morton, Richanne Mankey, Rita Kissner, and Mayor Mike McCann. Others are welcome to join. The next meeting is November 22nd at 1:00.
- DECA Program at Defiance High School has new leadership – Kevin Kline is now in charge of this program. The intent will be to take the program back to observing the kids we have and determining what they need to help them be successful when they leave school.
- Small Business Development Committee: After this committee met, it was determined that many of the items they were trying to create were already in place, just not advertised. Group member include Brandon Gerken, Kirstie Mack, and Floyd Culver, along with some assistance from Lisa Beecher at the Small Business Development Center. The established some goals which include creating a brochure to share the information with small business start-ups and also creating a gratis program where established professionals could assist new business owners with small tasks that may need done such as an hour with an attorney or accountant, etc. This group will meet again in December.
- Made comments about a future desire to have career coaches in the schools to really help kids have better plans when they graduate high school instead of becoming lost.

RITA KISSNER: Culture

1918 building:

- The property still has not been transferred to the city. The City Law Director anticipates this being completed by the end of 2019.
- Reported on the work that will be/has been competed to the Auditorium: AC is complete, new curtains/shades; new painting; cleaning stage curtains; possibly new carpet and better seats. Most of these items have not been completed for over 30 years.
- It was noted Bob Morton’s email is: rmorton@defianceschools.net. Please make note.

CARLA HINKLE:

- Goodwill has partnered with ProMedica to create a job creation center in Toledo. Carla inquired whether this could be completed in Defiance. Both groups are very open to this opportunity. The store layout would need to be reworked to create classroom space and also incubator spaces for new businesses. This would most likely take 2 years to rework the retail space. The group would like to start classes sooner. This opportunity could be paired with what the Small Business Development Center is doing.

LIZ KEEL:

- Inquired about Tech Cred Program. Carla will send out information to the group. This information was previously shared with all large employers in Defiance County.

NIKI WARNCKE:Native American Tribute

- A public meeting will be held on Monday, November 18th at 6:30 p.m. in the Defiance Elementary Cafeteria. This meeting will be similar to a charette in nature. The public is invited to attend. The meeting will be facilitated by the CollabLab from BGSU.

Downtown Historic District

- Public Hearing was held last evening at Defiance College with officials from the State Historic Preservation Office. The meeting had a few building owners present as well as Maura Johnson, consultant who completed the application. The application will be heard by the state board on December 6, 2019 in Columbus. The board will vote and once the application is passed will move on to the National Park Service for their stamp of approval. The Mayor and Kirstie Mack discussed attending the December 6th meeting in Columbus.

Public Art (including Murals)

- Discussed the BGSU Public Administration Masters Class that is completing research into a Public Art Policy for Defiance. The city should have their final report soon.
- Traveled with Kirstie Mack to the Heritage Ohio conference in Newark, OH a few weeks ago. One of the sessions was on murals and public art. Discussed pros and cons, what would do different, different ways to put murals on buildings (not just paint). Very informative. The city will most likely need to set up an Art Review Board that would approve the pieces.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS PILLAR: JAMIE GERKEN & DOUG BUSH**DOUG BUSH: ABSENT****JAMIE GERKEN:**

- Defiance City Council passed the Health in All Policies Ordinance. (high five)
- Defiance County Health is looking at metrics needed for a variety of issues. Are there metrics they could pull for other Pillars? This information would be available on the social determinants of health dashboard that has been discussed.
- Defiance College is working with Health Department to do qualitative research on the east side.
- Health Department is working with United Way to update the walking trail signs at Defiance County East. New signage!!

KIRSTIE MACK:

- Discussed adding an additional Farmer's Market to the First Fridays in Summer 2020 (June, July, and August) What vendors are missing? Locations?
- Rumors the Northside Market may discontinue Tuesdays. Could the downtown group pick up this time and include the lunch hour for all those working downtown? Seems like a great opportunity.
- Carrie Wetstein offered the United Way to help promote the Farmer's Market Information

- Discussion on having classes on how to cook vegetables. Pairing with Ravens Crockpot class. Having additional classes like grilling, etc. (all the public parks have grills, so even if you do not have one, they are available). What can we do to get people to eat healthier? Teach them how easy it is to make.

Additional comments from Kirstie. She had to leave to attend another meeting.

- Fireworks are moving back downtown in 2020.
- From 2020 on, fireworks will always be the first Friday in July, no matter the date.

CONNECTIVITY PILLAR: CARRIE WETSTEIN

CARRIE WETSTEIN:

Connectivity/Broadband:

- November 14th at 7:00 a.m. at the Dream Center – discuss Build Up Academy
- November 12th at 6:00 p.m. at the Stroede Center - meeting with Defiance County Commissioners and Dr. Robert Gallardo from Purdue Center for Regional Development to discuss a county-wide digital inclusion strategy.
- Henry County Transportation Network: grant was denied through ODOT for expanding services into Defiance County. ODOT explained they want to see the network in place before adding additional counties such as Defiance. We will apply again in 2020.

NIKI WARNCKE:

- *Defiance County Active Transportation Plan* will be completed by the end of 2019. This plan will include the Safe Routes to School Update for the city.
- The city engineering department is assisting MVPO with walk audits this week and next week for the plan updates. These will be completed at Defiance Elementary and Middle Schools, St John Lutheran School, and Holy Cross School.

PERCEPTION PILLAR: LUIS RIVERA, JR. & KIRSTIE MACK

LUIS RIVERA, JR.:

- Always working on perception to increase positive awareness.
- Mentioned *Defiance Top 40 Towns in US* in USA News
- Youth Engaged Leadership Philanthropy through the Defiance Foundation
- Discussed connections with Jon Monk with Toledo 11 News (hometown kid)
- Idea of having Defiance City Parks page on social media. Have all the events. Let people post pictures. Could Jackie Arps work on this for her division?
- Next meeting is Wednesday, November 13th at 7:00 p.m. at the Elks.

HOUSING PILLAR: LIZ KEEL & RITA KISSNER

LIZ KEEL:

Good Tenant Program

- Angie Franklin (NOCAC) is working to get everything in order for this program to kickoff for March 2020 signups; gathering gift cards and basket supplies
- Future Program: Good Landlord Program

Committee Focus

- Market the CRA in Defiance
- Bring commercial lenders into the committee
- CHIP Program changes in the next round of funding

- Tax Incentive Program the State of Ohio is rolling out in January, starting in July you can get \$10,000 in tax credits over a 7-year period for completing updates to your house (windows, etc)

November 20th at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers is the next committee meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PILLAR: JERRY HAYES, CARLA HINKLE, & JOHN LEHNER

JERRY HAYES: Economic Development

- Lots of development and planning going on with northside properties.
- Harmon is designing infrastructure plans for the Harmon Park of Defiance.
- Roehrs Property annexed into the city. Final zoning determined at November Planning Commission meeting. This property is West of Carpenter Road and North of Elliott Road.
- Discussions of building a new spec building
- Environmental surveys for mega-site nearing completion. Once completed will immediately move to get site certification. JobsOhio invested \$275,000 to have these surveys completed. Will leverage this amount to get the options renewed/reserved.
- Solar Array project looking at Defiance County for new location
- Sales Tax Revenue is healthy. On track to be slightly higher than 2018.
- Had a meeting with a hospitality group about the 1918 building and will report to the city next week.

CARLA HINKLE: Workforce Development

- Teacher Career Bootcamp – ESC Office
- Career Exploration position (September through May)
- Summer Manufacturing Camp

Next SPC Pillar Team Leader meeting: *Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in Council Chambers.*

Respectfully submitted,

Niki O. Warncke, City Planner, Defiance