

Community Strategic Plan

Pillar Team Members Meeting on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

In attendance:

Carrie Wetstein, John Lehner, Niki Warncke, Liz Keel, Debbie Stevens, Doug Bush, Rita Kissner, Jerry Hayes, Richanne Mankey

Absent: Jamie Gerken, Luis Rivera, Jr., Chris Van Scoder, Carla Hinkle, Mayor Mike McCann

Guest Yvonne Dale from Yvonne Dale Graphics was in attendance to gather information to design a logo for the Community Strategic Plan. She will focus on the six pillars of the plan as the primary logo, then develop six icons to represent each. Under these six icons, the Pillar Team Leader can update information under each pillar to give the plan life. She will research information from other community logos to include pieces into the Community Strategic Plan logo. Once finished, she will send logo pdf's to the group to review and send feedback to Yvonne Dale. The Strategic Plan needs a separate website then placed under the Community Partner section of the City Website. Y. Dale will return on July 2, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. as a follow-up.

PILLAR PROGRESS REPORTS:

PILLAR 1: Connectivity: Carrie Wetstein

- The Mobility Manager Position for job transportation description was distributed and will be interviewing candidates soon. Three County United Way agencies (Defiance, Henry, Fulton) are initially putting up the matching portion to have this as a grant covered position for ODOT funding. There is an interest in expansion with the Henry County Transportation Network.
- Recently, there was a Bridge Ride meeting with NOCAC, K&P Medical, and the City. The program is going well and 26 individuals are being serviced through this program and able to maintain their employment during the Bridge closure because of this service. It's mostly being used for employment transportation. Tracking is taking place for this program, and the City is on track on the financing.
- The Active Transportation Survey through MVPO is on the City's Website and Facebook. The United Way also shared this information to their website. This survey is asking the community their interest in various transportation options. We ask all community partners to share this link on your social media pages.
- LYFT and UBER rides are also established in the city and available as transportation options.
- The Dream Center is having their first graduation tomorrow for their construction pillar. Six graduates are available for employment.
- There is nothing new on the downtown internet broadband to report, but there are separate discussions taking place to research this further.

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

- **Culture:** 1918 building update: During the City Council Meeting tonight, Council to vote on whether or not to allow the municipal government to negotiate for the acquisition of the Arabella Street building owned by Defiance City Schools. Two City Foundations, The Defiance Area Foundation and the Coressel Foundation, have stepped forward and commended for putting up the \$300,000 in escrow for potential demolition or for future re-development of the building. The Defiance School Board meeting is Wednesday for further discussions and a decision on the future of the building.
- **Education:** Two meetings were held on small business development. Representatives from Defiance College, NWSCC, Defiance Economic Development, DDVB, State Bank, Defiance Chamber of Commerce, and Promedica were present to discuss the kinds of education and resources that need developed for small businesses. The group agreed that a program plan needs developed first and then space obtained for training. There is another meeting in June to discuss this more. One website with all of the proper links would be helpful for individuals who want start a business. Other items discusses were classes for certificate programs, accounting courses, business courses, etc. Jerry will reach out to Chris Van Scoder regarding The Ohio Development Services Agency that could assist with future financing. There are other agencies discussed that could provide funding support in business development as well.

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

- The Defiance County Commissioners passed a resolution to develop a Land Reutilization Organization (Land Bank) and will form a five-person board. The Vortex Site and SK Hand Tools Site are both Brownfields that will probably be the first on the list. There will be JobsOhio funding for this.
- On the Mega site, Jobs Ohio committed \$275,000 for environmental studies and are featuring this site in JobsOhio marketing materials.
- A meeting was held last week with the NAI Harmon Group to finish the land transfer process to the NAI Harmon Group. There are a few parties interested in development at that site.
- The City Law Director and a private attorney for the Roehrs family are in discussions regarding annexation into the city for the Roehrs' Elliott Road property. There is an upcoming meeting with the County Commissioners to discuss the annexation petition next week.
- Carla Hinkle is finalizing plans for the summer camps being offered in July. Sponsorship is going well.
- There are two possible expansion projects for the county in Hicksville, Ohio.

Pillar 4: Health and Wellness: Jamie Gerken, Doug Bush

- Distributed progress updates: 1.) Presented the Health in All Policies Health Equity Report to Defiance City Council, submitted the Health Lens Tool Analysis to the City Law Director for review, and will propose a resolution to City Council once the Law Director reviews it. 2.) For the Community Health Improvement Plan will focus on several key areas in 2019: Mental Health and Addiction, Chronic Disease, Injury Prevention, Physical Activity, Food Insecurity. An executive committee will be created to discuss ways to improve and promote physical activity opportunities. 3.) The Health Equity Reports has been presented in many settings. 4.) In Qualitative Research for East Defiance: in discussions with Dean Bridgette Winslow, Defiance College Institute for Pre-Health and Wellness Studies, to study resident perceptions of health and well-being.
- Future considerations for the Health Pillar were discussed.
- Discussed several health related activities: Defiance ProMedica is discussing joining the Farmers Market to offer healthy food options, providing a dietician, recipes, etc.; discussing the development of a "The Healthy One-mile Walk" through downtown; a walking trail passport idea; and developing an adult kick-ball or other physical activities.

Pillar 5: Housing: Liz Keel and Niki Warncke

- Angie Franklin is willing to help organize a tenant education and working with The Dream Center.
- Liz Keel will be working on organizing the voluntary registration for Landlords.
- The Community Reinvestment Areas (CRA) are expanding which could benefit real estate agencies and banks for improvements on homes.
- A presentation on the housing study done by Pete DiSalvo last week went very well. He has connections with OHFA and other agencies. Pete is amending the housing strategies to include the Northside of Defiance as well.
- The City is looking into Historic Tax Credits for the entire downtown district and it only impacts those who receive federal money. This could benefit a lot of downtown businesses.

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

- John Lehner: A Strategic Plan logo is important especially for this perception group.

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. in Council Chambers