

SPC Pillar Team Members Meeting July 10, 2018

Mayor Mike McCann remarks: Overall, the group is moving along at light speed which is great. The Mission and Vision on the Council Chamber wall is a great reminder, and also reinforces what we are doing in the Community Strategic Plan.

Pillar Progress Reports:

Pillar 1: Connectivity: Carrie Wetstein (absent)

Niki: applied for funding and should know in the next 3-6 weeks if we received it for sidewalks and multi mobile paths on Cleveland Avenue and ODOT funding for East High Street. Mike: Working on downtown Wi-Fi 5G broadband internet with Metalink between Perry and Wayne Avenue to the 1918 school campus to entice business and residents to locate in that district. Carrie: is close to hiring someone for the Transportation Coordinator position. Jerry: A meeting with CIS and Jobs Ohio on identifying resources to help on CIS's desire to establish a data center and recovery service for computers, etc. It's a way down the road from happening but it could be located in the city of Defiance.

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

Discussions within her group were the renovations to the 1918 building/auditorium and demolition of gymnasium. Ralph Hahn and the SOS group is speaking to a developer in Columbus about senior housing options for the 1918 school building.

Education: Karla: Summer Manufacturing Camp for Grades 6-8 starts next week with 12 students each session. Karla is connecting with Toledo Goodwill on some summer camp initiatives. Rita: Richanne met with the new president of Northwest State Community College.

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

A blend of active proposed projects and additional sites:

- Spiker Construction is working on the Elliott Road Spec building with Sept 1 move-in for Decked, Inc.
- CBS Boring and Machine expansion – 25-40 jobs
- Manville expansion proposed – 24 jobs
- Latchaw Drive TIF going to council tonight
- Harmon Development waiting on city bonds to move that project forward
- Enterprise Industrial Park – Larry and Ray Plummer gave Mike preliminary design sketches on a 2nd access road, and electric supply capacity increase plan
- City and County working together on the:
 - Brownfield redevelopment
 - SK Hand tool site project
 - Former Vortex site on Jackson
- The "Project Team" Project is still alive and will see action soon.

Pillar 4: Health and Wellness: Jamie Gerken

Jamie: New legislation was received: Senate Bill 302 on health and equity of all policies at the state level. A task force will be formed. It should be interesting to watch what happens with it. Her team met a few weeks ago. The Health-In-all Policy initiatives were reviewed. They looked at health equity to focus on social connectedness. Mentioned The Blue Zone Project, which is studies on communities where people are living to 100 based on nine healthy habits.

A Healthy Community Design Handout was distributed: Health starts where you live, learn, work, and play.

Is doing some health programming with DCTV.

A County Health Assessment was done this spring to survey Defiance County residents on health habits, etc. Results should be back in August.

Mentioned that a Data Repository is needed for the City-County for all statistics. An interwoven data clearinghouse is needed.

Hoarding issues was discussed in their meeting to start the conversation. Keep in mind that there's the mental health aspect of hoarding, too.

Mike: The quality of life in Defiance has come a long way but we still have a long way to go. We need to take a closer look at the Parks Master Plan. A river sports company is needed for Defiance to take full advantage of the rivers. Renting or offering not only canoes and kayaks, but paddleboards, jet skis, motorized Tiki huts on the river, water bicycles, pontoons, etc. The Tridge is still an idea concept.

Pillar 5: Housing: Liz Keel

Liz: Hoping to wrap up the housing survey soon. The Defiance Dream Center has its Serve Day this weekend and is having their team leaders distribute the housing survey's to the neighborhood (423 responses to date), mostly Defiance residence. She will wait to get more surveys in before sharing the results.

In May, applied for the CHIP programs and waiting for results. Also may be looking into a USDA application for additional housing funds to improve rental properties to improve very low income housing.

Mike: Vince Sansalone is meeting with the school board then with selected community members on July 11, 2018 on an idea of repurposing the school campus building into a boutique hotel, housing apartments and/or condominiums. The question is to see if this is a viable plan for that building.

ProMedica is willing to assist and invest in housing in the city for (moderate to high income housing) and meeting soon along with LISC (low to moderate income housing) program to match funds if generated locally. Housing needs are a big concern that needs addressed now in order to grow this community. Infill and new housing is the idea for this funding.

Pillar 6: Perception: Luis Rivera, Jr.

Summary report distributed.

Mike: Met with Kelly Bazely on a presentation and proposal on different social media avenues using photography and storytelling. The issue is justifying the cost for the city's budget and will take a closer look at it.

Jamie: A full-time (PIO) Public Information Officer could be very useful.

We need to tell our story ourselves.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.