

Oneonta DRI Local Planning Committee Meeting #2

Oneonta Downtown Revitalization Initiative

Date/Time: October 25, 2016 / 1:00 - 3:00pm
Place: Foothills Performing Arts and Civic Center
Attendees: Gary, Herzig, Mayor, City of Oneonta (Co-chair)
Nancy Kleniewski, President SUNY Oneonta
Margaret Drugovich, President Hartwick College
Kristy Lawson, Staff Operations Manager, YMCA
Tim Masterjohn, Principal Owner, Red Caboose
Wayne Carrington, Principal, Owner bside Ballroom
Joe Ficano, Council Member, City of Oneonta
Len Carson, Board Representative, Otsego County
Elizabeth Horvath, COO, Otsego Now
Jeffrey Lord, VP Commercial Team Leader Community Bank
Patricia Kennedy, CEO, Springbrook
Jeffrey Joyner, President, AO Fox Memorial Hospital
Barbara Ann Heegan, Otsego County Chamber of Commerce
Bill Magee, NYS Assembly
Chris Leo, NYS HCR
Jaime Ethier, NYS DOS
Julie Sweet, NYS DOS
Meg Hungerford, Finance Director, City of Oneonta
Steve Kearney, Stantec
Marc Wouters, Stantec

Introduction

After an initial round of introductions from the planning committee members, Mayor Herzig provided an introduction and requested that the meeting be a discussion among LPC members.

Presentation Overview

Marc Wouters discussed stakeholder findings, discussed initial market analysis data collection, major national trends and demographic changes that create new opportunities for downtowns, and reviewed a draft structure for prioritizing projects.

LPC Group Discussion

There were numerous comments and discussions by LPC members regarding various topics such as the Town Square, parking issues, vacant upper story buildings, transportation and connectivity concerns, retail signage, underutilized land in the downtown, superblocks, improving Market Street, and the retail market assessment.

Design with community in mind

Discussion on Prioritization of projects

Stantec provided overview of how to prioritize projects, followed by questions and discussion regarding identification of projects.

Public Comment Period

The public was provided time to provide comments following discussion by LPC members. These are included below.

I hope we include in there the sustainability promises/guidelines already adopted by Council.

What is your timeframe? How long do we have? Is there an expiration time?

One way to change Main Street is the parking situation. It has to be longer than 1 hour. And each place has different time amounts. This should change.

A couple things I thought was interesting: How will driverless cars affect truck drivers?

Saratoga has really big sidewalks. Also Sherrington, VA. Signature theatre. And library. Has there been thought about bringing more institutions into downtown? Or bringing the library closer to downtown? And if you are going to keep the parking there, could you put an arch on Chestnut or Water to highlight where parking is.

Conspicuously absent in the presentation was the discussion of jobs.

You mentioned stakeholders, is there information about who was interviewed? Is that available?

Main Street is pretty cluttered around 4-5. Now that we've closed the school, more people driving kids. Even if there's a ton of parking on Main Street, you aren't going to parallel park when some car is right on your nose. Traffic is an issue.

No reentry signs should be coming down soon (according to DPW). Exit 14 is critical to downtown success. This should be analyzed.

Penn State and Marathon Dance is an example of an exciting student activity. Could we create some big event here in Oneonta? One that ties into youth programming like Boys Club?

Next steps:

Stantec is creating an online public discussion page.

The LPC#3 meeting will be Tuesday, November 29th at 1-3.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.