



Task Force Attendees: David Cohen, Michael DiVietro, Marguerite Dube, Harry Fox, David Gunther, Rev. Ricci Hausley, Novella Hinson, James Hopkins, Rhonda Hurley, Joel Johnson, Dick Linderman, Elise Mannella, Patrick McDevitt, Peter Meyer, Jean Mitchell, Chuck Romick, Joyce Smith, Brian Traylor, Elizabeth Walsh, Theresa Ziegler; Barry Seymour, Candace Snyder, Sean Greene, Alison Hastings (Staff).

Additional Attendees: The Honorable Dana Redd, Jasper Jones, Jim Bannon, Dominic Bocco, Paul Glover, Robert DiDomenico, Eileen Stillwell, William Matulewicz, Keino Moore, Sydney Taylor, Straso Jovanovski, Maggie Hill, Vincent Basara, Andy Sharpe, Charles Cholatti, Bridget Palombo, Martha Chavis, Glynn Jones, John Oberr, Bob Philpott, Lou Rodriguez, Edward Williams, Phil Pierdomenico, Jon Maresch, Nichola Panew, James Wooten, Peter Poretta, Barbara Kelley, Casbah Salaam, Maria Nina Scarpa

Welcome and Meeting Overview

James Hopkins, Past PPTF Chair, welcomed members to the meeting in Tahirih Smith's absence.

Barry Seymour also welcomed those in attendance and announced that Candace Snyder, DVRPC's Director of Public Affairs, will be retiring on April 17th.

Novella Hinson, Chief Aide to Camden Mayor Dana Redd, introduced additional Executive Staff in attendance at the meeting. Dr. Ed Williams, Director of Camden's Office of Planning and Development, then took the podium to introduce the Honorable Dana Redd.

Presentation

Camden 2015 & Beyond

Mayor Redd's presentation encompassed the City of Camden's financial status, its improvement and stabilization over the past few years, the importance of reconnecting neighborhoods and communities, public safety, the Metro policing efforts, past and future economic project and company commitments, employment and job training, educational system improvements, and sustainability.

The full presentation can be viewed at: <http://www.dvrpc.org/ASP/committee/Presentations/PPTF/2015-04.pdf>.

The question and answer period covered such topics as the changing crime rates; the change in cradle to prison trend; and attracting small business as well as large.

Dr. Williams then outlined the relationship between the City and DVRPC, encouraging task force members to get involved with moving the public in the direction of positive change.

James Hopkins discussed infrastructure improvements, noting that the needs of the City exceed infrastructure that dates back more than 150 years. He stated that \$10 million is needed just to gauge the extent of the needs.

One Minute Reports from PPTF Members

Task Force members were invited to provide updates on the activities of their organizations/municipalities/neighborhoods.

Elise Mannella reported that she is currently working on a “built environment exhibit.” Two discussions on the topic are set for later in April.

Jean Mitchell announced that Joyce Smith has won a Community Leadership Award.

Marguerite Dube noted that five regional rail stations in Chester County will be renovated; Paoli will become an intermodal hub.

Dick Linderman announced a main street initiative in Chester. He also noted that the USS United States will be docked in the city.

Michael DeVietro noted that Audubon had received a TCDI grant for a bike trail.

Theresa Ziegler stated that Gloucester County is continuing to work on its master plan survey.

Rhonda Hurley discussed details of a forthcoming 2015 Women’s Health Conference.

Harry Fox noted that the housing demo is moving forward.

Peter Meyer stated that New Hope is trying to get bus service within the community; accessibility is an issue for those who don’t drive.

Joel Johnson reported that Montgomery County’s Housing Authority is investing in stable communities.

David Cohen has been appointed to the Planning Commission.

Rev. Hausley noted that a HUB group has been developed in Germantown, which is the second oldest community within Philadelphia.

Committee Business and Upcoming Outreach, Events, and News

Candace Snyder announced that the next Task Force meeting will be on May 13, 2015.

Public Comments and Questions

There were no formal public comments.

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