

Troy HUD Consolidated Plan

Meeting: 10 AM, March 7, 2005 at City Hall

Subject of Meeting: Neighborhood Livability, Part 1

Attendees: Roger H. Murman and Mike Brown (Fraser and Associates); Mayor Tutunjian, Len Welcome, Bob Mirch, Nick Kaiser, Jeff Buell, Tim Mattice, V Zubkovs

Roger Murman described planning process and reason for plan; proposed HUD cuts in Federal budget for 2006 and how Entitlement communities will be affected; focus of 5 year plan and 1 year strategic plan; dispensed HUD PR regarding proposed CDBG program for 2006;

Mayor spoke of his support and endorsement of HUD plan;

V requested from Bob Mirch a list of city streets in disrepair

Roger Murman discussed Statutory Goals of plan which include: economic development, livable communities; decent housing; asked representative city departments to identify challenges to their departments;

V discussed CDBG program; \$2 million annually to Troy with \$1million going to directly to city enhancement programs; importance of activity agendas;

Roger Murman discussed Quantifiable Goals over 5 years;

V introduced Troy Police Chief Nick Kaiser and city Community Policing initiative;

Chief Kaiser gave overview of neighborhood policing; discussed city substations; officer availability to neighborhood policing; watch groups directed by Troy Police captains; North Central and South Troy are primary crime areas; Roger Murman requested crime stats; Chief Kaiser said he would furnish these;

Chief Kaiser discussed: PD receives grant monies for numerous programs including Project Safe Program, gang prevention programs, Weed and Seed program and how it fights neighborhood crime; Weed & Seed grant recently denied to city;

V discussed YMCA programs available; suggested Boys Club as alternative to YMCA programs; asked if Troy Housing Authority (THA) has any programs;

Mayor Tutunjian discussed possibility of spaces available for after-school programs; indicated that \$30,000 must be spent on city youth programs each year; city still needs more money;

Roger Murman asked about South Troy locales for after-school programs;

Mayor Tutunjian discussed that South Troy has no city-offered youth programs;

Bob Mirch spoke of programs available when he was a kid growing up in Troy;

V discussed volunteer groups that run youth programs city-wide;

Roger Murman asked about public recreation facilities and conditions;

Chief Kaiser (TPD) discussed city's interest in having a Police Athletic League program (PAL) to fund athletic programs for youth;

V discussed need to talk about Code Enforcement matters;

Bob Mirch discussed target areas as South Troy, North Central; Central Business area; Beman Park;

V discussed family accountability needs; Section 8 neighborhoods; landlord accountability;

Tim Mattice discussed concern about HUD's viewing of city programs related to poverty, crime;

V asked Len Welcome (Code Enforcement) to discuss his agency; Chief Kaiser mentioned that all agencies need to work together better for community improvement;

V asked about certain target areas to be identified;

Bob Mirch suggested walking tours be provided in areas of greatest need;

Len Welcome discussed 500 property roster citing needed rehabs;

V asked how soon target area(s) could be identified;

Bob Mirch suggested it be done ASAP;

Chief Kaiser will make crime and civil enforcement data available;

V asked how 5-year approach should be handled and involve public and city personnel participation;

Bob Mirch suggested that target areas be blocked and mapped accordingly prioritizing areas most in need;

Roger Murman asked if code enforcement matters had been addressed enough for plan purposes;

Tim Mattice discussed concern with current Community Policing; asked about new plan including things never addressed in old plan; would like to see more cops involved in community policing ie walking beats, etc.; suggested that funds be used to clean up crime in city; and

Roger Murman and Tim Mattice discussed need for meeting with Mayor and Police Chief to explain current community policing program.

END MEETING 12:00 PM

Troy HUD Consolidated Plan

Meeting: 1:30 PM, March 7, 2005 at City Hall

Subject of Meeting: Neighborhood Livability; Part 2

Attendees: Roger H. Murman and Mike Brown (Fraser and Associates); Len Welcome, Tim Mattice, V Zubkovs, Jim Rivers, Russ Reeves, Neil Bonesteel, Dave Bailey

V gave rundown of earlier meeting;

Russ Reeves inquired about what a consolidated plan is;

Roger Murman discussed the plan, what it is, what is required, why it is needed;

Mike Brown gave a rundown of HUD program priorities;

Russ Reeves asked about city priorities; discussed suggestions for Scolite site;

V spoke about grants for Scolite site;

Jim Rivers (DPW) discussed Congress Street water valve replacement program and need for new infrastructure;

V spoke about NICE program as model for neighborhood improvements (Beman Park);

Dave Bailey (Engineering) spoke of sidewalk program (Loan to Home) program;

Russ Reeves discussed his interest in HUD loan programs to homeowners; city in-kind services availability;

Tim Mattice spoke of properties on First St. and Front St.;

Russ Reeves spoke of NYSERDA grant and loan programs;

Neil Bonesteel discussed legislative member items;

Roger Murman discussed importance of Scolite site projects and Hudson River Estuary Center at South Troy;

Tim Mattice expressed concern about what the South Troy focus should be;

V discussed needs for Lansingburg section;

Roger Murman discussed existing 112th St. Corridor Study awaiting adoption by city;

V asked about needs for downtown infrastructure improvements;

Jim Rivers mentioned the valve replacements needed between Sage and Peoples Avenue;

Tim Mattice suggested the need for a Statement of Work to be prepared; and

Roger Murman requested a 1 year plan or list for street and road repairs be developed for use in Con Plan; Reeves, Rivers, and Bonesteel will develop list(s) and have them ready by 3/14/05.

END MEETING 2:30 PM

Troy HUD Consolidated Plan

Meeting: 1:00 PM, March 9, 2005 at City Hall

Subject of Meeting: Economic Opportunities

Attendees: Roger H. Murman and Mike Brown (Fraser and Associates); Ray Colucciello (Interim Troy Schools Superintendent), Bill Mooradian, Mike Sullivan (Congressman McNulty), John Hedley (Hedley Park Place), Steve Bouchey (Bouchey Financial Group), Jennifer Hill (RCDC), Linda Hillman (RCRCC), Susan McDonough (Northeast Health), Andy Ross (Ross Valve), Richard Bennett (Seton Health), Bill Leitch (Senator Bruno), Peter Swota (CDT Planning), Sondra Little (CDT); Gordon W. Enfield (ReMax Premier), Barbara Nelson (RPI), Robin LaBrake (Rensselaer County IDA)

Tim Mattice introduced Roger Murman and Mike Brown;

Roger Murman discussed participant importance to HUD plan, scope of plan; what it is, why it is necessary; introduced V Zubkovs;

V discussed existing plan, other city economic development programs available;

Ray Colucciello asked about other programs that could dove-tail HUD program;

V responded with discussing other programs;

Inquiries were made about Lansingburg study, infrastructure to assist economic development; Commerce Department assistance; Oakwood Ave development;

Tim Mattice indicated that need for infrastructure improvements should be a high priority to assist economic development; brownfield challenges; Troy is new to HUD economic development funding;

Roger Murman asked what has limited economic development in Troy;

Tim Mattice offered that city has no product to market;

Attendees suggested that property inventories be conducted and made available;

Tim Mattice indicated an inventory profile and analysis does exist;

Barbara Nelson suggested small businesses would be a better draw than larger businesses; taxes are a major constraint; RPI investments have helped the city grow economically; RPI has incubator for business in place;

Steve Bouchey suggested city community feel is a plus for Troy;

Bill Mooradian discussed that technology advances and more parking could benefit city;

John Hedley suggested city government invest more in business development;

Tim Mattice moved discussion to Brownfield development; spoke of such grants given to South Troy from all levels of government; suggested that more be done;

Steve Bouchey discussed image improvements could draw investors; supports parking meters;

V discussed need for tax break pilot programs;

Tim Mattice discussed pending city Comp Plan and how to attract home investment;

Bill Mooradian and Barbara Nelson both support transportation improvements like a shuttle system to minimize existing parking problems;

Roger Murman discussed ways to improve image through code enforcement and crime prevention programs;

Steve Bouchey addressed Roger Murman's comments;

Mike Sullivan emphasized caution as to how much funding will be available to benefit Troy should HUD monies be minimized and/or diverted to Commerce Department; and

Bill Mooradian discussed North Central and its need for improvements and development.

END MEETING 2:00 PM

Troy HUD Consolidated Plan

Meeting: 2:00 PM, March 10, 2005 at City Hall

Subject of Meeting: Housing

Attendees: Roger H. Murman and Mike Brown (Fraser and Associates); V Zubkovs (Troy Planning), Peter Lindley and Debbie Giroux (Commission on Economic Opportunity), Len Welcome (Troy Codes Dept.), Patrick Madden (TRIP), Michael Uccellini (United Group), George Reischaud (Troy Planning Board), Mario Muscolino (THA), Joe Fama (TAP, Inc.), Steve Kirk (DBS Planning w/Fraser and Associates)

V began meeting with introductions; each participant introduced themselves;

Roger Murman gave overview of HUD Consolidated Plan; discussed objectives, needs, analysis, value of participation of attendees;

Mike Brown discussed the HUD program priorities;

George Reischaud discussed Syracuse HUD program and points of its success regarding housing;

Len Welcome discussed Nuisance Abatement Program and RPI-Troy coordinated grant programs for housing;

Roger Murman spoke of coordination between housing and economic development initiatives for downtown/River Street;

Michael Uccellini spoke of citywide housing needs and how they would stimulate city living;

Patrick Madden discussed citywide housing data; updates, statistics, accuracy of all;

Joe Fama discussed needs for neighborhoods to have better vision starting with residents; discussed North Central housing needs; pointed out that auctioning tax-delinquent houses doesn't solve the problem of absentee landlords and deferred maintenance/deterioration

Len Welcome discussed listing of 327 homes vacant in Troy and on city tax roles; mentioned that most are owned by absentee landlords; city housing auction successes and problems;

Discussions included TRIP rental assistance programs, neighborhood coalitions, encouragement of home ownership to renters; no assisted living for elderly/poor exist in city;

Mario Muscolino discussed THA initiative to make public housing more attractive to working poor; suggested collaboration between city, HVCC, labor unions;

George Reischaud endorsed usage of labor union apprenticeships and HVCC to assist in creating better housing;

V discussed city lead-based abatement program; discussed applications to HUD for such program that have been denied;

Roger Murman suggesting the problems of vacant, substandard housing, and un- and under-employed people might be addressed by training (HVCC, labor unions) in historic preservation rehab and small business

All concur that major area of concentration should be North Central

Troy HUD Consolidated Plan

Meeting: 2:00 PM, March 15, 2005 at RiverSpark

Subject of Meeting: Homelessness and Poverty

Attendees: Roger H. Murman and Mike Brown (Fraser and Associates); V Zubkovs (Troy Planning); Tim Mattice (Troy Planning); Chris Burke (Unity House); Scott Mears (Unity House); Demetria Canty (CEO); Kirstein DonVito (Renss. Co. DMH); Pat Dinkelaker (YWCA); Liz Girolami (YWCA); Joy Smith (Legal Aid Society); Jim Crawford (Catholic Charities); James R. Fry (Josephs House); Tracy Neitzel (Josephs House); Tom Huliton (Troy Housing Authority); Mary Bashant (CARES); Donna M. Elia (Troy Area United Ministries)

Attendance was at the general meeting; input from the meeting provided a glance at what these organizations do to provide assistance to the city's homelessness and poverty problems.

General business was conducted

Roger gave introduction as to why this meeting was important to the city's Consolidated Plan; V discussed HUD funds historically earmarked for homelessness and poverty issues.

Discussion was raised about the HMIS program which is funded by HUD and mandated; regional data management system input by all service providers; training will be conducted at YWCA on 3/29/05.

Continuum of Care annually secures funding for homeless initiatives; last year's funding was \$2 million

"Plan to end homelessness" will begin Fall 2005; focus on chronic homelessness; suggested that someone from city be on advisory committee.

Joseph's House Permanent Housing Program requires a full environmental assessment; program remains at an impasse with city per remarks of Tracy Neitzel directed at city personnel in attendance; program has support of Senator Bruno; Neitzel stated that plan was not consistent with Con Plan goals.

Mention of upcoming fundraiser (6/12) to support homeless and poverty services in Troy.

10 year strategy discussed to target chronic homelessness; decrease dependency on shelters; Troy typically has 100 homeless people throughout city but not all originating in Troy; many are not physically or mentally fit to live outside shelters.

"CHAPS" program Unity House- 70 individuals; 30 make up families who were previously homeless; relies on HUD and other sources of private funding.

Waiting list exists for those wishing to reside in OMH-licensed housing per Kirstein DonVito; has much more data available at our request.

64 apartments are currently OMH licensed in Troy; Rensselaer County has best mental health system in Capital District; positive relationships exist between county and service agencies

30-35 families are homeless everyday in Troy and reside in motels, shelters, etc.

Penn State article regarding homelessness and housing was referenced; V has copy of this article