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Comprehensive Economical Development Strategy Public Hearing and Meeting
June 7, 2011
Rochester Community Center, Rochester, NH
Minutes

Members: Craig Wheeler, Dan Barafaldi, Glenn Coppelmann, Ute Luxem, Deb Shipman, Jennifer Flannery, Tom Elliot, Warren Daniels and Dennis McCann

SRPC Staff: Cynthia Copeland, Michelle Auen and Marilyn Barton

Guest: Paul Goodwin

1. Welcome/Introductions

M. Auen welcomed everyone to the meeting at 10 am and introductions were given around the room.

2. Open Public Hearing

M. Auen opened the public hearing at 10:05 am. M. Auen explained the CEDS began a thirty-day comment period on May 27, 2011 to allow the public to review the document, outline issues with the document and recommend changes to the CEDS before its approval. M. Auen noted the document was made available to the public at the Dover and Rochester Public libraries and is also available on the SRPC website.

M. Auen mentioned she received two comments from the Strategy Committee and those changes were incorporated into the document on June 7, 2011.

2.1 PowerPoint Presentation of the CEDS Process

M. Auen gave an informative PowerPoint presentation on the CEDS process.

2.2. CEDS Update

M. Auen stated the draft document presented at the meeting has updates from comments received and noted she still has to work on the table of contents, appendix and editing.

2.3. Public Comments

M. Auen stated that the document would need to be approved by the Strategy Committee prior to its submission to the EDA and that the Strafford Regional Planning Commissioners would also be approving the document.

T. Elliot stated what concerns him about the SRPC Commissioners approving this document is that not all of the communities belong to the Commission and is worried they may not support the CEDS and would cause an unnecessary delay to the process. T. Elliot stated his official comment that anything that delays the document has to be looked at closely and perhaps the comment period should be shortened and to accelerate the process if possible.

C. Copeland noted the CEDS document would be sent to the EDA and the SRPC Commissioners would review it at

one of their meetings, not prior to submission of the document. T. Elliot stated after hearing that, he was fine with the process as discussed.

G. Coppelman stated SRPC has structured this process much quicker than any he has worked with previously.

C. Copeland noted the end of July date is contractual and will get the document out the door as soon as it is completed and as quickly as possible.

M. Auen noted once she receives all comments, the document would be sent to the EDA this week for their comments.

D. McCann asked if the SEDC Board needed to approve the document as well? C. Copeland stated it would be up to the discretion of the SEDC board if they wanted to approve the document.

D. Barafaldi stated he'd like to see what the group would do to contact congressional contacts and report back to the group.

D. McCann noted what SRPC gets paid to do ends soon and it is up the group to get things done.

C. Wheeler stated he supports the schedule projected at this meeting and is pleased to hear it is going the EDA beforehand.

C. Copeland noted SRPC follows similar processes regularly with other grant work and is very comfortable with it.

M. Auen noted the update grant was almost completed for submission to CEDS for almost the same amount of money.

D. McCann stated he was told by the EDA priority funding for projects and project lists are different from the EDA goals and may not be quite as flexible as we think. C. Copeland stated lots of research was done on the timeframe and its just good grantsmanship.

There was discussion on whether it would be worthwhile to have the EDA come and speak to the group. D. McCann stated it would not be worth it as it takes two weeks to get an appointment and would be best to go along with SRPC and noted no plan has ever been produced so quickly.

C. Copeland noted the region currently has a sitting congressman on the EDA committee and chose this region as the one to visit.

There was discussion on whether a politically strategic approach would backfire? C. Copeland explained it could slow down the process and it also puts another level of documentation that needs to be included to be open and transparent.

D. McCann stated it was never SEDC's intent to drop out of the process and doesn't understand their role in this process and needs to be talked about after the meeting. C. Copeland stated it really should be discussed with the entire group and stated she thought SRPC has been very collaborative.

G. Coppelmann stated the Rockingham Economic Development Corporation (REDC) took the lead in the CEDS process with Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) assisting and noted Rockingham is different than the other ones in the state as the Planning Commissions played the lead roles in those other regions.

C. Copeland stated SRPC is using our match to get this done and our goal in a year is get a lot done and focus on being pragmatic and show success right away.

M. Auen noted we hope to be an EDA district within five years to leverage additional funding.

T. Elliot asked if that doesn't happen would that impede our ability to get projects done? C. Copeland noted it would not and there are major changes at the federal level and we want to show we can produce and have a track record.

D. Shipman stated she appreciated the information given to her as to where grant money can be obtained and found it very helpful.

There was a discussion on food deserts and what it was and how it ties in with the CEDS document, as it focuses on access to food and it can be combined with the health and social aspects of the document. D. Barafaldi noted it could also tie in with the security aspect of the document in case of an emergency with access to food. M. Auen noted there was a lot of grant money in regard to this and would send out information via email to the strategy members.

2.3.1 Next Steps

M. Auen went over the next steps, which included the thirty-day public review ending on June 27, 2011, incorporate comments into the draft plan, a CEDS Strategy Committee meeting on July 7, 2011 at 8 am to approve the final draft document and submittal of the CEDS document to the EDA by July 29, 2011 for their approval. M. Auen also noted the project matrix needs updating.

3. Close Public Hearing

After hearing no other comments, M. Auen closed the public hearing at 11:15 am.

4. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

M. Auen reminded everyone the next CEDS meeting would be on Thursday, July 7, 2011 at 8 am. M. Auen thanked everyone for attending the public hearing and for their continued support.

Minutes submitted by,
Marilyn Barton, PHR