

Minutes from Downtown 2020 Committee Meeting April 24, 2012  
Room # 307 at 8:30 AM

In Attendance: Lou Gagliano (chair), Craig Rebecca Shaivone, Valerie Smith Malin, Gerry Kagan and Bob Jacobs

Absent: Dan Kail, and Jeff Mayer

Summary of Minutes

1. Minutes from the prior meeting were approved without any change.
2. Chairman updated Committee related to meetings with P&Z, Fairfield County Commercial Real Estate group, RTM P&Z Committee, positive note received from Jonathan Cunitz Chair of RTM Long Range Planning Committee, and note from Cathy Walsh following presentation to P&Z.
3. Chairman indicated that he was going to send a letter to Gail Kelly of the Town's Attorney office to request information concerning the formation of a not for profit so that funds could be collected to pay for consultant services to do a downtown Master Plan of Development.
4. The current schedule of upcoming meetings was reviewed and discussed. Given concerns about the significance of traffic flow and movement of cars in a reconfigured downtown area, Chairman will move to set up a meeting with Police Chief Kall. In terms of the traffic planning issue it was emphasized that the retention of a consulting specialist in this area of expertise was very important to the planning of the downtown. Gerry Kagan (GK) commented that these types of firms are specialists separate and distinct from other Consultants with specialties in downtown planning issues, i.e. streetscapes, housing, retail, etc. GK also stated that it would be important for that consultant to do a study of present and projected effects taking into account the proposed changes for the downtown area.
5. Chairman reminded those that had not yet submitted their priority for stakeholder meetings to get them back to the Chairman by the next meeting so that scheduling could move forward. Chairman reminded the group that it

would be important for some of these meetings with the general public to take place in the PM, and one of those he wanted to meet with early would be the neighbors that live in residential areas close to downtown. This suggestion came from members of the public who attended the RTM P&Z Committee meeting of April 30<sup>th</sup>.

6. It was suggested that planning for a survey of members of the community would take place at a point precedent to the completion of the Master Plan of Development process.

7. Discussions of using social media and computer network connections to reach out to members of the community were briefly discussed. Valerie Smith Malin will coordinate these efforts.

8. Brief discussions took place concerning the note to the Committee from the Chairman to engage middle or high school students in some type of intern program. This would be for the purpose of obtaining their input into the process of expanded programs and opportunities for teenagers' downtown. It was decided that the best time to do this would be in the fall when they would be back in school and certain available school programs for supporting these efforts available.

Valerie Smith Malin will coordinate.

9. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 AM.