

MINUTES OF THE DOWNTOWN CITIZENS ADVISORY PANEL  
 July 16, 2007 AT 6:00 P.M.  
 12<sup>th</sup> FLOOR - H. LEE DENNISON BUILDING

Representatives Attending:

| <u>DISTRICT</u> | <u>LEGISLATOR</u>   | <u>REPRESENTATIVE</u> |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 2               | Jay H. Schneiderman | Susan Von Freddi      |
| 6               | Daniel P. Losquadro | Michael Poveromo      |
| 7               | Jack Eddington      | Cafer 'Joff' Sahin    |
| 8               | William J. Lindsay  | Kay Cameron           |
| 10              | Cameron Alden       | Robert Moses Kuri     |
| 11              | Thomas F. Barraga   | Donna DeLuca Periconi |
| 12              | John Kennedy        | Mario Gino            |
| 14              | Wayne R. Horsley    | Chris Ferencsik       |
| 16              | Steven H. Stern     | Walter Rabe           |
| 17              | Louis D'Amaro       | Jennifer A. Casey     |
| Planning        |                     | Peter Lambert         |

Representatives Absent

|                |                          |                             |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1              | Edward P. Romaine        | Rose Sanders                |
| 3              | Kate M. Browning         | Susan Wischhusen            |
| 4              | Joseph T. Caracappa      | John Suriano                |
| 5              | Vivian M. Vilorio-Fisher | Michael Mart                |
| 9              | Ricardo Montano          | Mohsen Elsayed              |
| 13             | Lynne C. Nowick          | William Garthe              |
| 15             | Elie Mystal              | Sal Puglia                  |
| 18             | Jon Cooper               | Thomas D'Ambrosio           |
| Cty Exec. Rep. |                          | Martin Cantor (Chairperson) |

Economic Development Staff Attending

Jim Morgo, Commissioner  
 Carolyn Fahey, Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator  
 Lisa Ann Broughton, Bio Hi/Tech Development Specialist  
 Heidi Kowalchuk, Contracts Management Analyst  
 Bea Sauer, Contracts Technician

Also In Attendance

Claire Fratello – 16<sup>th</sup> District Legislative Aide  
 Lynne A. Bizzarro, Chief Deputy County Attorney  
 Marisa Schiffano, Legal Department

Adopted: 1/28/08

The meeting was opened at 6:10 P.M. by Jim Morgo. The Panel introduced themselves, indicating the District they represent. Jim Morgo introduced Lynne Bizzarro, Chief Deputy County Attorney who came to clarify the bonding eligibility for Round VII. The projects will still be going through a merit based application as we have done in the previous round. He has asked Lynne Bizzarro to draft a paragraph for the application that will define eligibility of the projects and it will become part of the application, the rest of the application will stay the same.

Lynne Bizzarro said that she was here to just listen and get the Panel's ideas. She said she knew that it has taken some time but that she wants to get the application process right, now that we are doing bonding. She reviewed the projects that the Panel submitted as possible applications. She told the Panel that she would be reaching out to them for specifics of their projects and to get a better idea of what these projects are about. After listening at this meeting tonight she will put the parameters together to add to the application so we can get out as soon as possible.

Mario Gino asked why Round VII is different from Rounds V & VI if it is still taxpayers' money. Why should only the County benefit from this? Jim Morgo said that the only thing that changed this year is the previously the money was taken out of the operating budget and now the only different is that it is bonded. Mario felt that this would negate 50% of the Towns if project could only take place on County roads. Lynne said that it always benefited the economy of the County. Lynne Bizzarro explained that this would apply to any municipally owned land: Town, Village, State and County.

Lisa Broughton said that it could be on any Municipality owned land. Lynne will give us the parameters under which a program or proposal is going to be eligible and if an easement or some version of a legal document is needed, she will give us a prototype of that document. Lynne explained that an easement is an ownership of trust in property it allows you to use for certain purposes. Ownership follows the money and is like a loan – Easements are granted all the time and expire when completed. Jennifer Casey asked about liability issues. Lynne Bizzarro said that if the Towns want the money to do something they would be willing to accept some liability. It is really an easement of record and we expect that it be maintained. She said this Round is different because a policy decision made by the County Executive and the Legislature. Jen Casey asked if they would get more money if that they do more significant projects. The old projects would not have been eligible for bonding.

Susan VonFreddi asked how the application has changed – are they still going through the Town. Carolyn Fahey said that the Towns are now are doing the work and must adhere to Municipal Law – Towns get the money and work with the applicant so this procedure will not be changed.

Lisa Broughton said that the Living Wage and Lawful Hiring have been holding up some of the Round V and VI applications. After working with Lynne Bizzarro and Labor and the applicants are no longer required to submit Living Wage and Lawful Hiring forms and IRS Certification, because the contract is with the Towns/Villages.

Walter Rabe asked how long the bond would be. Carolyn Fahey said it would be around five years. Walter said that the County pays interest and would be saving money on our

program so why couldn't they give us more money. Lisa Broughton suggested that each Panel member ask their Legislators for more money and inquire how they would vote on it.

Jim Morgo said that we need closure on this as soon as possible so the only thing that we need is a paragraph for the application. Lisa Broughton said that we have certain concerns about the Towns of Huntington and Smithtown because they are on State roads. She said that DOT does not smile on this but is worth fighting for.

Chris Ferencsik said they are interested in buying land for a municipal parking lot. He asked if this were appropriate. Lynne Bizzarro indicated that buying the land would probably not be appropriate but if they purchased the land then an application for constructing the parking lot might be.

Lynne Bizzarro said in the proposals there was reference to streetscape and wanted to know what that referred to. It was described as sidewalks, lighting, benches, bricks, pavers, and hard infrastructure such as adding a median – not garbage cans and planters.

Lynne Bizzarro questioned that the Smithtown Chamber is looking to continue their project on 25A. Mario Gino said that this is for sidewalks on Town land... The Town is not pedestrian friendly. It is a five year plan includes a sewer district which will allow them to put in apartments on top of one story building. The initial goal is to redo sidewalks that have severe cracks on them. If the Town owns the sidewalk, the easement needs to be from the Town. Peter Lambert felt that the State owns the land and that the Town maintains the sidewalks. Lynne Bizzarro said she would look into it and get a definite answer on it. She said this conversation leads her to conclude that it is very important as to whom or what owns whatever is being approved. Carolyn Fahey said that each application requires local municipal resolution supporting it so we have the town make a determination of who owns.

Jim Morgo he has worked with DOT a lot and that they can grant easements.

Robert Moses Kuri said the proposed applications he submitted are all streetscapes and are located on County roads. He reached out to the Islip Planning to find out what land the County owned.

Lisa Broughton said that there were 25 projects proposed by the Panel. She stated that timing of the release is vital. The applicants were given 90 days in the past to return their applications but asked if 60 days would seem reasonable because the resolution would have to be at the Legislature in the beginning of November. This would give the Panel approximately one month to evaluate and grade the applications. The Panel agreed that it could be done but they might have to meet more than once that month. Jim Morgo indicated to Lynne Bizzarro that this Panel takes their evaluations seriously and therefore will need her assistance in clarifying bonding wording to be added to application as soon as possible.

Jen Casey said that because of the criteria we will probably get larger grant requests. Cafer 'Joff' Sahin said that many applications have common needs and maybe they could

join together. Mario Gino said that Smithtown started its project two years ago and if they can't go forward it would not make sense to only do a few blocks.

Lisa Broughton said that we are going to hold up the application until we get clarification on the bonding from Lynne Bizzarro that will be included in the application

Jim Morgo said he would work on getting an answer from DOT.

Lynne Bizzarro asked about the proposal from Cold Spring Harbor applying for more street light for their municipal parking lot. Who owns the parking lot? Peter Lambert said that the town owns it. Peter said that the application must say exactly where the project is. The Planning Department may be able to help with some of the research.

Lynne Bizzarro said that she should have something ready this week.

Susan VonFreddi asked, does the State have grants and how they are funded – Do they need easement from the County.

Chamber Summit - Lisa Broughton said that she found a very good program by a woman from Cornell Cooperative from Ithaca in connection with grant writers and can tailor to our needs. It is affordable and available but not for the date previously selected. Lisa checked out other speakers but they are too expensive. Is this what we want? The new date is probably early in October.

Michelle Stark & Lisa Broughton have worked on Destination Downtown but would like to take it one step forward to build up a campaign of "Shop Suffolk" or "Shop Locally" as the Campaign slogan. American Express might like to co-sponsor this. It might be rolled out at the Chamber Summit . We need a committee. Jenifer Casey, Chris Ferencsik and Mario Gino volunteered for this committee. It will start in '08. Last year there were 76 at the summit and every part of the County was represented. Lisa Broughton asked the Panel to get groups to come to the Summit.

Lisa Broughton informed the Panel that the Youth Department is interested in graffiti cleaning. They are instituting "splashes of hope" where the cleanup is done in the community by those who have done the graffiti and asked for the Chambers help to clean up graffiti quickly by notifying them where the graffiti is. Donna Periconi said that they do this through the Red Cross. They report graffiti to the Police Department and they contact the Red Cross who get rid of the graffiti. There seems to be no enforcement by Suffolk County.

Cafer 'Joff' Sahin indicated that he is still interested in providing the food and beverages for the Summit but does not feel that he will need a committee for this, only an approximate number of attendees. Lisa Broughton estimated there would be about 75. Donna Periconi said that her chamber would supply the paper goods and utensils. Kay Cameron volunteered her chamber to bring beverages.

It was agreed that there not be an August meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 P.M.