

Economic Development Task Force

Committee Meeting Minutes
September 4, 1997

**NOT
APPROVED**

SEP 11 1997

Members Present: Julie Marshall, Dick Golas, Michelle Green (for Russ Combs), Charlie Kalthoff, Tony Morrow, Tom Mailey, Phil Brooks, Charlie Joyce, Leslie McGhee, Jim Graffrath, Norm Miller, Pat Regan, Murari Singh and Joan Dallis

Members Absent: Nico VanZwanenberg

Julie introduced new members and announced that Dick Golas has volunteered to be facilitator for each meeting. Noting, however, that Dick does not want to be chairperson. Reviewed the committee's goal is to put together an Economic Development Plan; define businesses to recruit and industries that would fit into our county. Reviewed agenda for meeting.

Julie suggested the committee establish a fixed day for each monthly meeting to be held. The committee agreed on the first Monday of each month at 9:00 a.m. Meetings to be held in Room 221 at the County Office Building unless otherwise noted. Reminder notices will still be mailed to all members prior to meetings.

Dick passed out handouts on "The Nature of Change." Committee proceeded to brainstorm ideas on the "pro's and con's" of Allegany County. They are listed as follows:

Good Points

- * Cheap Electric
- * Recreation
- * Close Working Relationships
- * Positive Banking
- * County Government Support
- * Nice Scenery
- * Low Wages - Comparable
- * Good Work Ethics
- * Good Access to Other Types of Energy
- * Good Water
- * Good Mix of Industry
- * Good Opportunity to Start New Business
- * Strong Art Community
- * Good Public Facilities
- * Route 86
- * Clean Air
- * Quality of Life
- * Good Labor Force
- * Available Land
- * Affordable Housing
- * Higher Education
- * Low Cost of Living
- * Location
- * Low Crime
- * Existing Business & Industry
- * Good Weather

Not So Good

- * Too Many School Districts
- * Identity Crisis
- * Limited Professional Resources for Business
- * Too Many Area Codes for County
- * Regional Resources are Fragmented
- * Telecommunications - Lack Of
- * Public Transportation
- * Lack of Middle Range of Services (i.e.; Contractors)
- * Lack of Retail
- * Lack of Higher Education - Newer Housing
- * Young People Leave - Lack of Opportunity
- * Taxes
- * Roads
- * Lack of Access to Transportation
- * Reputation of County
- * Junk
- * Lack of Better Paying Jobs
- * Lack/Poor Zoning
- * Depressed Real Estate Market
- * Motel/Conference Center
- * Lack of Federal/State Support
- * Aging Population - Can't cater to them
- * Lack of Trained People for the Future
- * Lack of Child Care
- * Lack of Coordinated Effort
- * Bad Weather
- * Water/Sewer Interstructure
- * Are We Ready for Change?

Discussion proceeded with regard to ideas listed. Dick referred to a previous survey "Business Retention & Expansion Project - Manufacturing Sector."

Pat Regan noted that the Planning & Development Committee recently doubled the Economic Development marketing and promotions budget and the Task Force would have the support of this committee to finance the future Economic Development budget if there is a plan in place.

Tony Morrow suggested we focus on the positive issues of the County and possibly destroy the negative sheets. Possibly focus on a couple of the bad points but don't dwell too much on the negative aspects. Joan Dallis suggested that the committee see the negative points in the context of the positive. Dick remarked that we improve what the good points are and bring the negative points up to par.

Committee proceeded to discuss the Mission Statement. It should be based on the positive points of the County and not to exceed one or two sentences. Ideas were as follows:

Mission Statement

- * Create and promote a positive environment for Economic Development (Business/Housing)
- * Maintain and strengthen resources (existing)
- * Create new resources
- * Implementation Plan
- * Create Blueprint

Murari Singh suggested that everyone try to write a statement from the chart notes and next meeting we will write a final statement as a team. Dick noted that all member should keep the following three words in mind when thinking of a statement: "Create, Promote & Implement"

Joan mentioned that it is the Task Force's job to create a blueprint so the Mission Statement can formulate from that.

Julie passed out a handout with the Task Force broken into two teams. She explained her process of the split teams and that it was based on the members particular expertise in their areas and tried to not duplicate members with the same backgrounds.

Julie suggested we hold off on the long-term and short-term goals until we have a Mission Statement in place, as the goals will form from that. Murari also noted that it will be difficult to implement a "plan" until we establish these goals. Joan suggested maybe the committee break into small groups with smaller assignments performed over a shorter time frame. Murari suggested each team put together long and short term goals and bring these ideas back to the full committee for discussion.

Joan commented that it should not be the responsibility of the teams to gather the information regarding the inventories and inducements. The committee should utilize the county resources for this information so as to not waste time of the teams. Julie remarked the committee should not do the physical inventory, yet the teams could come up with ways to further implement or identify the means to gather this information. Julie, Russ and Charlie to gather information and sources for data for quick overview at next meeting. Julie suggested the two teams be put on hold until next meeting after more information has been gathered.

Jim Graffrath suggested Mitzi Stout, Wellsville Village Clerk, be contacted so that each committee member can be invited to the rededication of the Wellsville Airport on Saturday, 9/13/97, at 11:30 a.m. Thought this would be beneficial for the county to have the visibility of the Task Force there.

Next two meetings are as follows: Monday, October 6th @ 9:00 a.m.
Monday, November 3rd @ 9:00 a.m.