

Ypsilanti 2020 Task Force Working Meeting

HIGHSCOPE FOUNDATION BUILDING
600 N. Huron Street, Ypsilanti MI

September 4, 2007
7:30 P.M.

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: L. Bashert (acting secretary), K. Baumkel, G. Clark (acting chair), N. Edmunds, K. Hill, L. Horne, K. Maurer, M. Maynard, S. Stidd, D. Strong

Committee Members Absent: N. Brown

1. Gary Clark called the meeting to order shortly after 7:30pm and took the roll call.
2. Lisa Bashert agreed to serve as recording secretary for this meeting.
3. Thoughts on our personal projects—
 - G. Clark stated that whether or not we get the EDA Planning Grant, we should persevere with our personal projects, as he plans to do. The group was polled as to progress updates with ideas we have presented to the group.
 - K. Maurer noted that she will move forward with her ideas when things in her life slow down.
 - K. Hill noted that the DAY will decide by Friday whether they will definitely move forward with a Shop Local Initiative this holiday season, as they did last year. G. Clark will also participate and so will M. Maynard, as re-localization efforts are deeply important to both of them.
 - K. Baumkel is currently working on writing the EDA Planning Grant. Kent states that EMU's Dean Mielke has connected her with an EMU professor interested in helping the City update its website this fall. Gary suggested Kent contact Ed Koryzno and Frances McMullan at the City Hall on this and work to connect them to EMU. Kent asserted that, while the e-Civis Grants Network project (for city, Ypsi non-profits and CBO's) has been postponed due to focusing on the EDA Planning Grant, she would like to re-address this project in the future.
 - S. Stidd remains interested in the Water St. development, downtown access, adding a stoplight on Michigan Avenue between Ballard and Summit, neighborhood recreation, and best ways to help with other initiatives. Sean brought up long-term community planning sustainability, climate change and energy independence – the big picture stuff. He does not want the important goal of future sustainability to be lost from view as we pursue other goals.
 - N. Edmunds is most interested in improving Ypsilanti's image, furthering historic preservation and restoring the Freight House. The FoYF group are seeking grants for renovations now. She is also serving on the Recreation Commission and is interested in park and recreation planning. In November, the FoYF co-chairs will make a presentation to the Heritage Foundation. There was discussion over whether the light rail project will affect the Freight house. Nathalie was unsure where a platform is planned but her group also plans a visit to the current owner of the Depot to discuss city image and renovation of the building. She has also been involved in some discussions with the museums, Miller Motors and other businesses about marketing through their literature and fliers.
 - M. Maynard offered a copy of a video documenting usage of the Freight House and the community there about 10 years ago. He will make a copy of it for Nat. Lisa also suggested FoYF contact Gary Urich who managed the Freight House for many years and who now manages Recycle Ann Arbor's ReUse Center.
 - L. Bashert spoke about the importance of anticipating the impact of global climate change and oil depletion on our local area and make sure to take the possible effects into consideration in

our planning. As a futuring body, we need to keep these possible scenarios in mind; would like to vigilant watch that we pass green initiatives, mentioned that city government should be running on renewable energy.

There was also some discussion of the idea for a local currency. Lisa feels that a sponsoring body is needed to undertake the project and really make the currency a success. Could this body undertake that project? EMU incentive card project was discussed, spearheaded by Ted Coutilish who is the new Marketing and Promotions Associate Vice-President at EMU with the goal of encouraging students, employees and alumni to spend and save their money in Ypsi; Lisa sees this project and a local currency would be complementary. Evolution of Money website <<http://evolutionofmoney.typepad.com/>> was also cited as having links to many local currency projects.

- L. Horne is a person who can jump on the bandwagon and assist on projects like the one cited by Lisa.
- M. Maynard coordinated a local holiday shopping initiative last year with a brochure highlighting local businesses and a pledge, which the Mayor and others took. May work with DAY on holiday shop local events. Shadow Art Fair will take place 12/1/07 noon to midnight at the Corner Brewery—he will offer low cost ads for \$25 in a fair program to encourage and incorporate local businesses in the success of this local event. Café Luwak and Gordon's both reported a spike in business during the last SAF. If late night shopping events are planned downtown and in Depot Town during the holidays, they could be coordinated with SAF to take advantage of the increased out-of-town visitors. The Stuff Your Stocking night was also very successful in Depot Town.
- K. Hill suggested that those interested in local buying initiatives attend the October DAY meeting. DAY meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month (locations vary—ask Kevin). Also of interest: Junk in Your Trunk, an auto-based garage sale, on Saturday, 9/15 from 9am-3pm at the Washington & Pearl city parking lot, sponsored by Loula Jones and the Riverside Neighborhood Association.
- D. Strong is also deeply interested in economic development for our city. She would also like to promote a SE Michigan Children's Film Festival in February 2008, like the event held in East Lansing. It would have educational components, teaching directing, film criticism, etc, for all ages and involve partnering with local institutions like EMU, UM, WCC, etc. She will bring more information. Would like a running list of project ideas.

D. Strong is interested in the Greening of Ypsilanti not only for economic development, but to become better citizens and teaching stewardship. There are only benefits and no downsides. She was at a meeting focused on economic development for neighborhoods in Wayne County, which detailed the reclaiming of brownfields and redevelopment of the entire corridor of from Willow Run to Detroit. There is grant money for the redevelopment of industrial sites. SEMCOG is working for this redevelopment; Ypsi has a SEMCOG representative. We should make sure that Bill Nickles and Paul Tate realize the support and interest from this committee in green development.

- M. Maynard reminded us that Rep. Dingell is the chair of the Commerce and Energy Commission, who could make the Greening of Ypsilanti a project, to use as a bully pulpit and demonstration of what is possible. He has an office in Ypsilanti, thus we could leverage his influence and help, e.g., Water Street as a green development. Planning Grant could also be directed to green development. "From Brownfields to Greenfields," could be a fantastic marketing slogan.
- Wayne County is looking at development centered on the airport, known as an aerotropolis. (An aerotropolis has an airport at its core and is surrounded by clusters of aviation-related enterprises, such as industries related to time-sensitive manufacturing, e-commerce, telecommunications and logistics; hotels, retail outlets, entertainment complexes and exhibition

centers; and offices for business people who travel frequently by air or engage in global commerce.)

- K. Hill commented that the Planning Grant will help any/all of the above ideas, as a way of bringing together many projects.

4. EDA Planning Grant Summary

- The EDA Planning Grant summary Kent distributed had been reviewed by K. Baumkel and K. Hill; Graydon Krapohl and Larry Molnar of UM-CEDAP; Karen Hart, Ed Koryzno and Paul Schreiber at City Hall. K. Baumkel incorporated all their feedback into this current version. She is communicating with Jim Rhein at MI Dept of Labor and Economic Growth, City Finance Officer Marilou Uy, and YPD's Lt. Angott and volunteer statistician Megan Turf to verify facts and stats. There has been a substantial amount of work already put into this concise but information-packed two-page document now ready for 2020 review.
- The Cover letter for the summary was written by Paul Schreiber. G. Clark read the letter. City of Ypsilanti is the primary applicant, partnering with a variety of other entities, including Washtenaw County, Eastern Michigan University, Ann Arbor SPARK, Ypsilanti Charter Township and the United Way of Washtenaw County. The partners will be confirmed at a later date. UM-CEDAP will offer technical assistance.
- The Planning Grant submission process: Members agreed K. Baumkel will represent the 2020 Task Force on Friday 9/7 during the visit of the EDA officials to the ACH Plant meeting hosted by UM CEDAP. she will deliver the Planning Grant summary to EDA Regional Director Robert Sawyer and will report back to 2020 at our 9/17 meeting; next step - we would be invited to submit a pre-application form; then a full application, probably in November. The summary describes our community, need and grant goals; a detailed budget and work-plan will be developed during the pre-application and application phases. K. Hill left the meeting, with many thanks expressed to Kent and those who worked on the Planning Grant Summary.
- There followed lengthy editing of the Ypsi Planning Grant Summary... Thanks to Kent for her willingness to be edited and all her hard work. And thanks to everyone else for their outstanding suggestions!
- Although the city of Ypsilanti is technically the applicant, there is no staff to execute the grant process. The Ypsilanti 2020 Task Force will be oversight body. The project manager to be hired under the Planning Grant will implement the grant work-plan. The Washtenaw County Eastern Leadership Group, an ad hoc group of leaders from eastern Washtenaw County that includes EMU, SEMCOG, SPARK, Ypsi Township, United Way, etc., has offered to help Ypsilanti address the ACH plant closing and economic development planning. G. Clark has been invited to attend and introduce the work of the Ypsi 2020 Task Force. G. Clark will confirm that date.

5. Planning of upcoming meetings

- 9/17/07 7:30pm at HighScope Foundation again. It will be Kevin Hill's birthday, so someone might bring a cake! K. Baumkel has created a visual map of assets and impacts on the city of Ypsilanti. Will bring that to our next meeting. **The group would like city planning staff to be invited to the next 2020 meeting so that we can understand what grants are in the planning process and already underway.**
- The Stakeholders Meeting is proposed for 10/8/07, probably at EMU. Graydon Krapohl will send us a list of stakeholder categories for our use. UM-CEDAP will provide us with invitations, forms, etc. Between 20-50 stakeholders will be invited. G. Clark will find out exactly what will take place at that meeting.

6. The meeting adjourned at 10:40pm (approximately).

