LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 9
March 8th, 2017

Members Present:

(x) Jim Sharpe, Chairman
(x) Beverly Kinney, Town Board
(x) Mary West, Economic Development
(x) Pete Marston, Planning Board
(x) Paul Leuchner, Parks & Recreation
(x) Dan Drexelius, Citizen-at-Large
(x) Diane Evans, Conservation Board
(x) Marion Fabiano, Zoning Board of Appeals
(x) Martha Ludwig, Citizen-at-Large
(x) Deborah Billoni, Citizen-at-Large
Mike Madigan, Town Board
Steve Birtz, Ag & Market Community Group

Members Excused:

(x) Betty Harris, Traffic Safety
(x) Peter Coppola, Citizen-at-Large
(x) Sharon Osgood, Citizen-at-Large

Members Absent:

(x) Eric Fiebelkorn, GI Chamber of Commerce

Guests:

Brian Kulpa, Clark, Patterson, Lee
Justin Steinbach, Clark, Patterson, Lee
Sharon Nichols, Historic Preservation
Shirley Luther, Historic Preservation
Catherine Steffan

X indicates voting members

I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:07 p.m.

II. MINUTES

A motion was made by Paul Leuchner / Diane Evans to APPROVE the February 8, 2017 LRPC Draft minutes as written.

Ayes: All in favor.
Motion carried.
III. MISCELLANEOUS

- New Members: Steve Birtz Ag and Markets Community Group
  Dr. Brian Graham, Superintendent, GICSD – Beginning with April meeting.

- Change of regularly scheduled April meeting - will now be held on the 1st Wednesday of the month, April 5th - due to school break

IV. INTRODUCTIONS

- Jim stated that we have worked as a team since March 2016 – our primary purpose was to discuss what plans we have in place and what the different board’s focus was.

- Planners – Clark, Patterson & Lee
  Brian Kulpa
  Justin Steinbach

  Clark, Patterson, Lee has a few ideas / focus:

  1st – they try not to make the LRP a consultant driven plan

  2nd - focus on public outreach – establish good dialog with the public

  - Public Outreach Plan includes public hearings, social media and surveys

  3rd - a good plan is a plan that is implemented and not sitting on a shelf collecting dust, it is not the length of a plan that counts, but rather the substance, content and applicability. If we are talking about economic development, a business owner should be able to pick up the plan and see that the Town is serious about economic development, this is what we see and what we want to do. Same for ag markets, they should feel confident that their soil rights, storm water and water shed will be protected.

  Residential component – everyone’s neighborhood matters the most to 90% of the residents – like them to feel that what they like will be protected and what they would like to be changed will be addressed.

V. SCHEDULE

- Brian stated that normally when they come to a “kick off meeting” and everyone is still scratching the surface, we are further along as a committee and that he and Justin will need to catch up and do a bit of brainstorming to see what your vision is.

- Over the next few weeks, the first deliverable is a draft outreach plan, which should be sent to the LRPC a week before the April meeting.

- The next deliverable is a draft vision plan.
• In April – we will be heavily into inventory analysis - what is here and what isn’t here. The Department of State is working on a model based on municipalities with police departments and one of the things we hope to do is go back 5 years of budgets and then project our 5, 10, 15 & 20 years expense and revenue, so that we can see just how far apart those move or how closely they stay. There will be variables such as tax rate and growth rate, the goal is to figure out what kind of property value assessment increases are needed, not individual property assessments but rather, bulk assessment in order to sustain the current growth rate and expenses. It helps set the tone for economic development and densities needed.

• Outreach Plan starts tonight. White Board presentation:
  Public Outreach Components:

  Easy / Obvious
  Easy / Outside Agency
  Difficult / Can control 100% in house
  Difficult / Outside Agency

• CLP likes to come of local festivals and set up a tent – do some survey work and present drawings, part of outreach plan:

  List of local festivals:
  -Taste of Grand Island
  -Paddles Up Niagara
  -Gus Macker
  -Relay for Life
  -Kidz Biz
  -4th of July Parade
  -GI Citizen of the Year

  -May need volunteers from amongst the LRPC members to man the tent
  -Brian requested an event schedule
  -Survey – use Survey Monkey.com – will print copies and leave at library, virtual back-pack with schools.
  -Justin does student outreach with the school, generate ideas for youth which will translate to how you attract families.
  -Social media – Town has website and Facebook, pod casts, Town newsletter, GI Chamber does a monthly newsletter.
  -Not-for-profits: VFW, Chamber of Commerce, Churches, Lions Club, Rotary, Brian requested list of all not-for-profits. Jim will put together list with contact people.
  -Jim stated that the Town’s Highway Dept, Zoning Office, Engineering Dept, Clerk’s Office, & Assessor’s Office will all be engaged in this process.
VI. BRAIN STORMING EXERCISE
- What is your vision for Grand Island?
- Members responses:
  - Access - another bridge, tunnel, ferry
  - More youth activities
  - Historical outreach
  - Community center – walkable Town Center
  - Recreational tourism, Birds, Bikes & Boats
  - Better industrial park
  - Eco-tourism
  - Connect trails, more of an integrated system
  - Ag district established
  - Winter bird festival
  - More public access to waterfront
  - Free State Park pass for GI residents
  - Demolish plaza, replace with multi-use construction
  - Need to move Town Hall – we need to be welcoming, replace with a hub for the community to gather with an Amphitheater, trading post, need to anchor the center of town
  - Welcome Center
  - Public boat launch

VII. RECAP:
- Picture of an Island that has strong conservation areas, perhaps restored conservation areas
- Strong agri-centers and agri-community and even restored agri-community
- These will promote conservation, tourism and agri-tourism which will give us the critical mass that developers need to see to be willing to take a chance on developing here.
- We need to figure out:
  1) What an agri-community really needs to thrive, what kind of code embellishments they need in order to say that they have a right to farm and that they can see an expansion of farm land & farming in this area?
  2) What kind of protections or capital work needs to go into conservation areas?
  3) What kind of zoning needs to be put into place, and what kind of abatements - incentives need to be offered?

- Demographics are going to be mostly feasibility based.
- Need to bridge gap – more trips to the Island from people off Island
- If we don't want to increase residential mass and volume, then we are going to have to draw some money through.
- Mass comes to Grand Island but doesn't exit and spend time here.
- Need up-to-date inventory of what is on GI
VIII. CONCERNS:

- What about industry? Do we want more?
- Currently Town provided services are spread out to the four corners of GI, traffic needs to be brought back to the center, we can accomplish that by bringing the services to the center of the Island.
- Take a look at the current zoning
- We need hot button topics first before survey is done.

IX. NEXT MEETING: Meeting # 10

Wednesday, April 5th, at 7:00 pm.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Paul / Martha to ADJOURN at 8:52 pm.

Ayes: All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline McGinty
LRPC Recording Secretary