

Meeting Date September 8, 2021

Attendance:

- Bill Pacelli, Chairman: present
- Alec Italiano, Co-Chairman: present
- Joseph Carle: present
- Donald Deguffroy: absent with cause
- Laura Smith: absent with cause
- Judy Soles: present
- Anthony DeNunzio: present

City Representatives

Chuck Highlands, City Councilman  
Marcy Stein, Marcy Stein Company, New York, NY

Call to Order 6:06pm

Review and Approval of last meeting minutes. No comments on minutes, a motion was made by Alec Italiano and 2nd by Joe Carle, to accept the meeting minutes as presented.

Old Business:

a. Jeannette Initiative currently holding virtual meetings, to discuss the PA Downtown Centers Main Street Program. Mr. Fontana, acting as an advisor, is still looking for ways to fund the downtown manager position. The Jeannette Initiative did not realize there are funds available to them from the Westmoreland Foundation. The Initiative board does not know how to access. Funds could possibly be used for the first year of payroll for the main street manager. Bill Pacelli has paved the way with the Elliott Company HR person. The Jeannette Initiative would present a detailed request to the Elliott Company. We need seed money for the downtown manager position. Basically the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the 5-year project, is getting the funding for the salary. Jeannette Initiative could contact other municipalities that have Main Street Managers, to see how they are handling the issues. Maybe sharing a Main Street Manager with another municipality. Greensburg has an individual, a city employee, that runs the Greensburg

Community Development Program, the funding for this position is obtained by a tax the city has imposed. We need to come together on these issues, so we don't lose this opportunity for the community.

b. Marcy has revised her vision for 400 Clay Ave, originally, she was looking at the building as a space that would attract an artist community, to work, teach, live and display their work. This vision would not pay the bills. In talking with the community leaders, business owners and just regular people, the vision is now on workforce development. It seems there is a gap between an employer and a qualified employee. So does this mean training and or retraining. Alec suggested a career link resource center in the building or a vo-tech type setting. Marcy has a list of local businesses, plans to contact the HR manager to discuss their needs and training opportunities. The Westmoreland Foundation and the Pittsburgh Foundation have shown an interest in this project.

c. There are currently 2 grant applications in process. Alec to get in touch with Ed Antonacci to discuss grants. Bill Frye is doing a good job of applying for grants for the Fire Department. A downtown manager would be the perfect individual to manage all the grant applications and keep all departments informed of progress.

d. Bill Pacelli had a lengthy discussion with Elizabeth from SHPO, forwarded to Bill 3 handouts that addresses questions on National Register of Historic Places, Federal Historic Tax Credit Program and 24 Reasons Historic Reservations is good for your community. Bill has broken this down in an easy to compare pros and cons chart. The cost to begin the process, make application, is apx. \$25,000. We must have an architect that is familiar with state and federal guidelines, there is time sensitive material in the application process. After much discussion, Alec Italian made a motion to recommend making application for Downtown Historical District to Council, Joe Carle 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor. Bill will prepare a recommendation to be submitted to council, forward to PC for review, then on to Council for their decision. The city needs to go from stagnant to significant, bring people into the city.

e. Homework, review the Zoning Ordinances, Irwin in red and Jeannette in black. Discuss at next PC meeting.

f. Bill Pacelli working on addendum to the PC By-Laws based on feedback from solicitor Tim Witt.

#### New Business

a. Due to a change in a court ruling, there must be a 24 hour notification of a public meeting, which means if we are making any changes to the agenda, Bill has to have the changes by Sunday evening so he can get the revised agenda to Nathan Bish by Monday evening at the latest, for posting on Tuesday morning.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: 7:25pm all in favor