

DRAFT
MINUTES
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR
VAUGHAN-WORTH-BRIDGE REVITALIZATION
7:30 A.M. – Tuesday, November 21, 2017
Conference Room A
Portsmouth City Hall

Members in attendance: Rebecca Perkins, Chair; Nancy Pearson, City Councilor; Dexter Legg, Planning Board; Barbara Destefano, Resident

Members Absent: Everett Eaton, Economic Development Commission; Vincent Lombardi, Historic District Commission; Jay McSharry, Downtown Business owner

Staff Present: David Moore, Assistant City Manager;

1. Call to Order

Chair Perkins called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

2. Discussion: Updated Vision Presentation, Draft Report and Recommendations

Chair Perkins stated that this will be the final meeting of this Committee and that at the conclusion of the meeting there will be a vote to recommend the final report to the Council.

Assistant City Manager Moore stated that the report has been updated with the modifications from the last meeting and they are looking for affirmation and confirmation of the information.

Mr. Uhlig and Mr. Touloukian presented the final draft report.

Following the presentation of the report, Chair Perkins opened the discussion.

Mr. Legg stated he feels that the report does capture the discussion of the last few months, but feels that another level needs to be added in order to capture the detail involved in the presentation.

Discussion ensued regarding the best approach to presenting the report to the Council and public to best understand the vision.

Ms. Destefano stated that she would like to see a prioritization of what should be done first, second, etc.

Assistant City Manager Moore stated it needs to be clarified again that this is a vision and not a plan, it is a conceptual way-finding for the future.

Discussion ensued with consensus that this should be a part of a holistic approach to downtown as a whole and emphasize flexibility and openness. Also, emphasize that this is a response to resident concerns and is not meant to cater to visitors. Finally, the 3 spaces should be thought of together and not as separate spaces and done one at a time.

Mr. Legg expresses concern in voting on the report with several members absent.

Chair Perkins stated that the timeline is tight and it should be moved forward as the committee will be concluded at the end of 2017. She stated that this is scheduled to be presented to the City Council on December 4, 2017.

Discussion ensued regarding scheduling issues.

Mr. Legg moved to recommend the vision as presented. Seconded by Councilor Pearson. Motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

Public Comment:

Peter Vandermark – stated he loves the plan in general but wonders how the public will react to so much green space. He also feels that the emphasis should be on why this is needed and the opportunities that can come from it. He feels using the term “transparency” is confusing and also doesn’t think that being able to hold events will be a selling point.

Councilor Pearson asked why he thinks green space will be a problem.

Mr. Vandermark stated that he feels people are concerned with the parking issue.

Councilor Pearson stated that this would not be going forward until after the 2nd Parking Garage is completed and also the McIntyre Project as well.

Assistant City Manager Moore stated that the Parking issue is addressed on Page 5 of the report and reiterated that this will be an ongoing issue with the new City Council in 2018.

3. Adjournment

Ms. Destefano moved to adjourn at 8:50 a.m. Seconded by Councilor Pearson and passed unanimously.