

Ad Hoc Committee on Best Practices in Northampton Decision Making

Minutes of meeting of March 27, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 6 PM in the Board Room of the Department of Public Works.

Present were committee members Jim Palermo, David Narkewicz, Michael Bardsley, Wendy Foxmyn, Alex Ghiselin, and Bob Reckman. The meeting was taped for future broadcast by NCTV. Two members of the public were present. They were Jesus Leyva and Bonnie Rose.

The minutes of our meeting of March 14, 2008 were approved. They will be posted.

Wendy Foxmyn read a proposed mission statement that she had drafted and previously circulated to the committee. Revisions were discussed and a slightly modified version was approved. Bob Reckman will provide a copy of the approved mission statement to the committee.

Jim Palermo read the Plan of Action that he drafted and previously circulated to the committee. Comments were made and the language was revised. The committee decided that our initial report to the City Council would be a draft, so that we can modify our plan of action based on any feedback that we receive on the draft. The committee modified the draft and approved some new language for the submission.

The committee decided not to submit a time line to the City Council.

The committee discussed a proposed policy on public participation drafted by Alex Ghiselin and David Narkewicz. It was modified and will be included in our report to the City Council

The committee discussed the meeting review form that Wendy Foxmyn prepared. It is posted on the City web site. We want to encourage people to give us feed back by using these forms. The committee chose to add an open ended question about why they attended the meeting and to give people an opportunity to allow us to contact them or add then to our list serve.

Jim Palermo and Lisa DePiano will speak to the Council. We discussed our outreach process. We agreed that before our next meeting we could each try to write down and share what “discovery and outreach” we think the committee should do.

We formed a working group to recommend to us what forums we might undertake. Michael Bardsley, Jesus Leyva, Alex Ghiselin, Bonnie Rose and maybe Lisa DePiano will be on the working group.

Jesus Leyva announced a meeting at Jackson St. School on April 29, 2008 at 6 PM that will be a community forum.

Wendy Foxmyn reported on her visit to NCTV.

The committee authorized David Narkewicz to set up a basic Google User Group for the committee that will be linked to the City's web site where our documents will be posted.

The next meeting will be on April 7, 2008 at 6 PM in a location to be determined by the chair.

The meeting adjourned at 8 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Bob Reckman