Draft Mayors Senior Advisory Committee Minutes

February 25, 2019

5 Williams Street Saratoga Springs, NY12866

Also present: Denise Yannaci, (OFA), Lois Celeste (SSCCC).
Excused: Cliff Ammon, Susan Brennan, Phil Diamond, Jared Littleboy, Mary Ellen Ryall, Anne Trainor, Chuck Meagher.

The meeting was called to order by Barb at 1:35pm.

Introductions began and went around the table. Previous meeting minutes were distributed and reviewed. A motion to accept was raised by Nedra and seconded by Celeste. Minutes were approved without opposition.

Since last committee meeting, Dee and Barb have met with the Mayor to discuss the purpose, structure, membership and officer appointments/ terms of this committee. The mayor will be appointing officers and be sending letters to members with terms indicated.

Barb and Dee reported:
- that the Mayor feels there is no need to meet every month, every other month is suggested, and April was to be first. Group would like to continue to meet monthly and decided to meet in March as usual.
- Meg also suggests subcommittees be formed to communicate between group, Mayor, and community. Areas of concern to be served by subcommittees (paired up committee members could serve as a subcommittee) include but are not limited to: 1. Complete Streets 2. Affordable housing, 3. Transportation (CDTC) 4. Greenbelt/ sustainability 5. Health/ public safety 6. Culture/arts
- concluded that the final Road Show event in April hosted by ALL would complete the neighborhood input series. There will not be need for the East side meeting that had been proposed. Mayor feels it was a lot of work to reach very few people, the feedback/ efforts appreciated.

There seemed to be conflicting opinions/ understandings between what Dee and Barb understood from Mayor and what Bailey (intern SSCCC) and Lois understood of Meg’s aspirations for the committee.

Pending additional topics the Mayor may suggest:
- Nedra very interested in the public safety/ sidewalks will coordinate, organize walking inspections.
- Dee very interested in arts/ cultural committee
- Celeste interested in affordable housing
Further discussion with the Mayor is needed for clarification. There was a desire to revisit previous transportation topics of Trolley add-on trips, routes to SPAC, theater, state park. Group decided it will, in fact meet March 25th, 1:30 at the Rec center on Vanderbilt if possible. Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Tammy D’Ercole

Following the meeting Lynn Bachner sent the following letter on behalf of the Mayor, at 1:47pm on February 26, 2019:

WELCOME SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Welcome Senior Advisory Committee members. Welcome to our new members who are just stepping up as well as our ongoing members who continue to dedicate their time and efforts. The last in our series of “neighborhood meetings” will be at Academy for Lifelong Learning (ALL) Special. It will be held on Friday, April 12, from 10am to noon, at Empire State College on West Avenue, Saratoga Springs. Please make every effort to attend.

Moving into a new year provides a good opportunity to reflect on the past year – to consider what is working well, what can be improved, what goals are complete and what new objectives to add to our slate.

We have gotten to know each other, as well as the concerns you have brought to the advisory committee. This year I would like to expand the committee’s role. Each one of you can be a valuable emissary for your family, friends, neighbors and constituents.

I would like our membership to work as a liaison to the community. Listen, listen, listen, and bring back concerns and ideas to this committee. Let’s see what we can accomplish!

Many areas of interest have been discussed at neighborhood meetings, as well as committee meetings, and for now we will be focusing on:

Sidewalks
Greenbelt trail
Transportation
Sustainability
Clergy
Homelessness
Recreation
Arts
Safety
Health
Emergency
Services Senior Housing
On an administrative note, in order to provide a timeframe for our work, a way to refresh our membership, and avoid losing the entire team in one year, we will be creating membership terms. This serves as your official appointment by the Mayor. Total membership will be 13; we will achieve this through attrition. Terms will be staggered at either 1, 2 or 3 years as follows:

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Sincerely,

Lynn, for Mayor Meg Kelly

M. Lynn Bachner, Executive Assistant to the Mayor
Mayor's Office-Room 9, City Hall
474 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518.587.3550 x2520
518.898.7288 CELL

*PLEASE NOTE OUR TEMPORARY LOCATION AT THE RECREATION CENTER, 15 VANDERBILT AVENUE*