



Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board
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Paul Vickery, Chairman David V. Bottar, Executive Director

MINUTES
CNY RPDB Board Meeting
21 April 2004

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Terri Bridenbecker, Daniel Dineen, Rocco DiVeronica, David Elleman, Linda Hartsock, Russell Lura, Mary Messinger, William Meyer, David Miller, James Murphy, Royden Parratt, Ann Petrus, James Rafta, Danny Ross, Clarence Rycraft, Kimberly Seager, Joseph Slivinski, William Southern, Frederick Talbot, Walter Tennant, Bruce Trexler, Garry VanGorder, Paul Vickery, and Stephen Zabriskie.

Guests: Nicole Aiello, Office of U.S. Senator Charles Schumer; Barbara Blanchard, Tompkins County Legislator; Edward Brophy, International Boxing Hall of Fame; Peter Cann, Madison County IDA; Bryan Gazda, Village of Canastota; Donna Malinowski, Office of U.S. Senator Charles Schumer; Marissa Mims, Office of NYS Senator Nancy L. Hoffmann; Tom Niederkorn; and Todd Rouse, Mayor, Village of Canastota.

Staff: Carol Faucher, Stephanie Harrington, Benjamin Manton, and Wayne Westervelt.

BUSINESS MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Paul Vickery called the April Board Meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. at the International Boxing Hall of Fame, Canastota, New York. Chairman Paul Vickery thanked Madison County members for hosting the day's meeting.

2. **APPROVAL OF DAY'S AGENDA/MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 2004 MEETING**

Chairman Paul Vickery asked if board members had any changes to the day's agenda and minutes from the February 2004 meeting. Hearing no comments, Chairman Paul Vickery asked for a motion to approve the day's agenda and minutes from the February 2004 meeting as presented; so moved Ann Petrus, seconded by William Southern; unanimous approval.

Chairman Paul Vickery introduced four new board members representing Cayuga, Cortland, and Oswego counties; namely Mr. David Miller, Director of the Cayuga County Planning Department; Ms. Terri Bridenbecker, Executive Director of the Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce; Mr. James Murphy, Supervisor for the Town of Virgil in Cortland County; and Mr. Russell Johnson, Chairman of the Oswego County Legislature.

3. **WELCOME TO MADISON COUNTY**

Madison County Board of Supervisors Chairman, Rocco DiVeronica welcomed everyone to Madison County. Mr. DiVeronica introduced the Village of Canastota Mayor Todd Rouse. In 2006, Madison County will celebrate its 200th anniversary. A bicentennial logo contest was conducted to celebrate the occasion. These logos will be displayed at various locations across the county. Efforts are continuing to bring industry back into the county by utilizing the Canastota Industrial Park. At the conclusion of the day's meeting, a complimentary tour of the International Boxing Hall of Fame will be conducted.

4. **FEATURE PRESENTATIONS**

Former CNY RPDB Director of Planning and current Tompkins County Legislator Barbara Blanchard presented a historical glimpse of the Board's role in the establishment of the International Boxing Hall of Fame. Ms. Blanchard stated that in 1984, Mr. Edward Brophy had a vision of creating a Boxing Hall of Fame and requested the assistance of the CNY RPDB to prepare a feasibility study as well as assistance in identifying a specific site. In 1985, the CNY RPDB partnered with Knowledge Systems Research to prepare a feasibility study. CNY RPDB staff and the Boxing Hall of Fame Board of Directors worked with the NYS Thruway Authority to obtain the property along the NYS Thruway in Canastota.

Ms. Blanchard then introduced Mr. Edward Brophy, Executive Director of the International Boxing of Fame. Mr. Brophy stated that mission of the Hall of Fame is to honor and preserve boxing's rich heritage, chronicle the achievements of those who excelled, and provide an educational experience for our many visitors. The idea of a boxing hall of fame germinated out of a town's love for one, and later two, of its hometown boys who became world champions. Several Canastota residents decided to honor former welterweight and middleweight champions Carmen Basilio and Billy Backus. The townspeople raised funds for a showcase that would celebrate the achievements of two local heroes. The success and enthusiasm for this project encouraged Canastotians to explore the possibility of establishing boxing's first hall of fame and museum. This project was completed in 1989 when former champions witnessed the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Hall of Fame. One year later, the first class of boxing legends, including Mohammad Ali, was on hand to receive their long overdue enshrinement. The displays in the Museum include colorful robes of boxing greats, gloves, hand wraps, and fist casts from dozens of champions. Several videos add live action to the museum and the Wall of Fame features plaques of all the inductees.

Under the leadership of Mr. Brophy, an additional wing has been added to the Museum

along with an event pavilion adjacent to the Hall of Fame. The event pavilion is also used by the Town of Canastota to hold special events. The Hall of Fame holds annual induction ceremonies in early June as the highlight of a four-day celebration of boxing and its legends. The event is scheduled for June 10-13, 2004. It is estimated that approximately 20,000 people attend this celebration each year.

5. **CNY RPDB COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Economic Development

Board Member Russell Lura stated that the committee met on 17 March 2004. Members discussed a range of program initiatives currently being addressed by CNY RPDB staff. Projects noted included the Cortland Business Park, Finger Lakes Technology Park, Syracuse Solar Street Improvements, and the Syracuse Technology Business Incubator Center.

Committee members reviewed a series of CNY Telecommunications maps showing data gathered in the study. Items depicted included major fiber routes, central offices, cell tower locations, and exchange boundaries. The final report will include specific information that was gathered for 50 major development sites in the region. Staff noted the GIS/interactive elements of the study.

Mr. Lura stated that staff has begun the initial procedures for the annual update of the CNY Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Mr. Lura encouraged members to submit recommendations, which will be submitted for committee review in May 2004.

Lastly, members reviewed plans for the agency to submit a funding application to the federal Economic Development Administration to assist the CNY community in their efforts to respond to the loss of jobs at Carrier Corporation. Staff noted that they have solicited a significant amount of input from local officials about projects to include in the funding application. Specific elements being included are the MDA/Workeys initiative, OCC Lien Institute, CNY Technology Development Organization, inventory and reuse plan for the Carrier site in Dewitt, Hancock Airpark / Aurelius Business Park / Hamilton Airpark, regional marketing, and a regional site development profile study.

The next economic development committee meeting has been scheduled for 19 May 2004.

Environmental/Water Resources Management

Committee Chairperson Royden Parratt stated that the committee met on 2 March 2004. Members discussed a range of program initiatives currently being addressed by CNY RPDB staff. Projects noted included:

Oneida Lake and Watershed Program -- All working group recommendations have been endorsed by the Watershed Advisory Council and are being presented to the public for comment as part of the "Know Your Lake and Watershed Series" in March-June 2004.

Stormwater SPDES Phase II Program – Two stormwater workshops were held in the Syracuse area. The “Think Spring” public education workshop had an educational focus with the underlying message of what citizens can do to help themselves, the environment, and the Phase II program. The “Municipal Good Housekeeping” training workshop focused on assisting municipalities to comply with the Phase II regulations.

Cortland County Natural Resource Inventory Assistance – CNY RPDB staff will be assisting Cortland County with the preparation of a Natural Resource Inventory, designed to assist communities in the writing/updating of their comprehensive plan.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund – On behalf of the New York State Association of Regional Councils, CNY RPDB staff prepared letters to Congressman Walsh, Senators Clinton and Schumer regarding maintaining Clean Water State Revolving Funds at their current level, despite the fact that inflation and additional workloads have increased.

The next environmental/water resources management committee meeting has been scheduled for 18 May 2004.

Land Use and Transportation

Committee Chairperson Frederick Talbot stated that the committee met on 31 March 2004. Members discussed a range of program initiatives currently being addressed by CNY RPDB staff. Projects noted included:

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission – The Commission is currently preparing a Preservation and Management Plan for making recommendations on three major elements including preservation of historic elements, interpretation of historic elements, and expanding economic development.

Cortland County Arterial Access Management Program – The CNY RPDB staff is in the final stages of executing an agreement with Cortland County and the NYS Department of Transportation for conducting a demonstration project for arterial access management for controlling highway driveway access.

State Route 12B/46 Corridor and Pine Woods Intersection Project – CNY RPDB staff held a public meeting at the Hamilton Forum on 31 January 2004, summarizing issues and reviewing tools and alternatives. On 24 February 2004, the Community Advisory Committee met to review issues, tools and alternatives, and to hold a workshop for committee members to develop comments and provide input.

Finger Lakes Agriculture Land and Open Space Project – The Project Technical Team has selected an analysis technique developed by the Cayuga County Planning Department, which is based on utilization of a GIS ArcView software extension for modeling possible future development scenarios. The Team will be proceeding with the application of this technology with the first of several Cayuga County towns in the near future.

The next Land Use/Transportation Committee meeting has been scheduled for 19 May 2004.

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Board Treasurer David Elleman presented the March 2004 financial statement, noting the year to date balance of (\$11,319.70) on the revenue and expenditure report. Mr. Elleman noted a new line item on the revenue report entitled "Anticipated Water Resource Funds". These funds represent additional funds expected in the year 2004, but no signed contract has been executed. In a continuing effort to reduce expenses, Mr. Elleman stated that the Board car has been returned to the automobile dealership. Further expenses noted include the increase in pension and health care costs. After hearing no questions, Treasurer Elleman asked for a motion to accept the March 2004 financial statement; seconded by Royden Parratt; unanimous approval.

7. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Acting Executive Director Benjamin Manton thanked the day's guest speakers, Ms. Barbara Blanchard and Mr. Edward Brophy.

Mr. Manton stated that staff is continuing to proceed in a transitional year, noting the various projects currently underway. Mr. Manton will continue to review budget changes in 2004/2005 for the five-county region and continue efforts to increase revenue and reduce expenses.

The next Board meeting has been scheduled for 16 June 2004 which will focus on the annual update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

8. **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Paul Vickery asked Search Committee Chairperson Mary Messinger to present an update on the search for a new CNY RPDB Executive Director. Ms. Messinger stated that a second round of interviews were conducted with the final three candidates. The Search Committee will convene another meeting immediately following today's meeting. Once the Search Committee has recommended a candidate, the CNY RPDB Executive Committee and the full Board must convene to approve the candidate.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no additional business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Paul Vickery thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 1:40 p.m. Immediately following the business meeting, members and guests were invited to tour the International Boxing Hall of Fame.