

Natick 360
Honoring Our Past. Planning Our Future.



Strategic Planning Oversight Committee
Minutes * February 7, 2007

Present

Terri Evans, at-large member
Matthew Gardner, designated by the Conservation Commission
John Heerwagen, at-large member
David Parish Co-Chair, designated by the Board of Selectmen
George Richards, designated by the Planning Board
Harlee Strauss, at-large member

Absent

Craig Ross, Co-Chair, designated by the Finance Committee
Rosemary Driscoll, designated by School Committee
Fred Witte, at-large member

Consultants Present

Phillip Blackerby, Blackerby Associates (by telephone)

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. EST by the Co-Chair, Mr. Parish, in the School committee Meeting Room, 3rd Floor, Town Hall, Natick, MA 01760. A quorum was present.

Item 1. Approval of Minutes: Mr. Heerwagen moved approval of the minutes of January 31, 2007 Mr. Gardner seconded the motion, and the Committee voted 4-0-2 to approve the minutes of January 31, 2007.

Item 2. Coordination with boards and committees: Committee members did not report any significant issues with their liaison boards and committees regarding the joint meetings.

Item 3. Meetings, week of February 12: The Committee discussed and clarified the meeting schedule for the week of February 12.

Joint meetings of boards and committees are Monday, February 12 and Tuesday, February 13, 7:00-9:00 p.m. The purpose of the meetings is to understand and develop a list of the issues, gaps and barriers to achieving the Natick vision. Board and committee members are invited to attend either meeting; they may attend both, but they do not need to attend both. SPOC members are encouraged to attend one or both meetings. Mr. Blackerby summarized the agenda, which will be finalized by noon tomorrow, Thursday, February 8.

The Key Informant meeting is Tuesday, February 13, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Committee members reported the results of their follow-up phone calls to invited participants. Pastries and coffee will be

provided; no funds are available for sandwiches; Committee members are asked for their ideas on how to provide sandwiches.

The meeting for public participation is Thursday, February 15, 2007, 7:00-9:00 p.m. As of yesterday, Tuesday, about 40 positive responses had been received from the e-newsletter announcement; Mr. Heerwagen also sent a letter to key business people inviting them to attend.

Alternative means for public input: The Committee discussed alternative means for public input. The primary suggestion was through the web site, on some kind of form. *Action Item:* (a) Messrs. Ross, Parish and Blackerby will develop alternative means for public input when they meet Monday morning, February 12.

Item 4. Phase 3 – Review of process document: The Committee noted some corrections to the Phases 3-4 Process document: page 1 bullet 2: “one meeting will be open for participation by the public to describe their perceptions;” typo on page 1 “meeting;” page 2 delete 2nd paragraph.

Item 5. Other business:

Mr. Gardner discussed the student participation process. The Committee urged him to proceed with this project.

Mr. Parish has been in discussions with Walnut Hill School; they want to participate in the *Natick 360* strategic planning process. Tomorrow, February 8, Mr. Parish will meet with a group of nine administrators and faculty to get their input on the gap analysis.

Mr. Gardner moved to adjourn, Mr. Heerwagen seconded the motion, and the Committee voted 6-0-0 to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Summary of Action Items noted above:

- (a) Messrs. Ross, Parish and Blackerby will develop alternative means for public input when they meet Monday morning, February 12.