

Local Planning Committee (LPC) Meeting #3 Summary – 7/18/24 at Herkimer County Community College

- The third LPC meeting began with a welcome from Co-chair Renee Shevat and the reading of the preamble by the Mayor.
- A handful of LPC (nick, tammy, John) members recused themselves as having potential conflicts with projects
- Progress update – reminded the group of where we are, what was accomplished at the last LPC Meeting, what will be accomplished today and what is coming in the near future.
- Downtown Profile Snapshot – consultant to look into more updated
  - o Older Age and smaller family sizes compared to the rest of the county
    - 19 and under cohort decreased greatly
  - o Income is lower
  - o Housing – 35% is vacant (DRI area)
  - o More renters than owners
  - o Unmet demand for office/retail space
  - o Job growth over last 10 years (manufacturing and government)
  - o Does anything look off?
- Land Use Map
  - o Dense, walkable area
  - o Strategically located on thruway corridor
  - o Opportunity to increase mixed-use housing options
- Open Call Submissions
  - o Reviewed State Goals, Local Vision & Goals, Evaluation Criteria
  - o 23 projects, \$21.75 m in DRI ask, \$32.34m in total project cost, \$1.49 in leverage. 9.87M in public projects, 10.94 in private projects, 855k in not-profit, 552k in SPF
  - o Reviewed All projects
    - Pleased to see that projects are beginning to check the necessary boxes
  - o Streetscape Project Questions: Diagonal parking? Yes, can be done, will be added to graphics soon. Maybe include students in mural or give input on branding / sculpture design (for streetscapes project) - Renee asking Nick and Maria to think about. Can you put utilities underground? Yes, but very expensive so might not fit into scope. Can investigate grants to offset costs.
  - o Meyers Park Question– year-round use for building? Yes. Seating? – Will look into.
  - o For people who didn't submit, there's still avenues for funding (CFA or small projects if funded)
  - o Reminder that there are funding resources on the About page of website
- Draft Strategies
  - o Based on Vision and goals. Each project must achieve at least one strategy
  - o Reviewed the draft strategies and workshopped them

- Goal 1 – accessibility and energy efficiency, keep combined or break apart? Sustainability components?
  - Goal 2 – historic but modern, workshop it.
  - Goal 3, 4, 5 and 6 no changes to strategies.
  - Sustainability components? – decarbonization strategies are required for certain projects
- Next Steps
  - Public Engagement
    - Open House 2 – 7/24/24 4-7 at former Episcopal Church
    - Herkimer Diamond Days – 8/10
  - LPC meetings
    - 4 – 8/14
    - 5 – 9/17
    - 6 – 10/8
    - 2 working sessions
- Notes
  - IDA will help administrator SPF if funded and MVEDD and IDA will be implementing partners on the public projects and MVEDD will help funded private projects with technical assistance and with energy efficiency and sustainability.
- Questions
  - Can we bring the DRI into the schools?
    - Will discuss how to get the students involved
  - When do you encourage someone to change course? – as we go along, connecting dots along the way.
- Public Comment
  - Funding all or nothing? – slight adjustment but yes typically projects are funded at full request.
  - How locked in are final budgets? Opportunities through lpc 5 to make changes, early is better though.
  - What's the oversight after awards? Depends on agency that is contracting – milestones to reach that they will reimburse and require documentation. Usually through receipts.
  - Sponsors need to bring anything? Will touch base if things are missing?
  - Can more images be used on project boards?
  - How to visualize veterans assistance? Through the descriptions