

# Meeting Notes

## Clinton Square DRI Local Planning Committee Meeting #5

Albany Downtown Revitalization Initiative

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Date/Time February 20, 2019 / 5:00pm  
Place: Hampton Inn – Downtown Albany,  
Attendees: Mayor Kathy Sheehan, Co-Chair  
Linda MacFarlane, Co-Chair  
Mark Aronowitz  
John Curtin  
Albert DeSalvo  
Steve Longo  
Tracy Metzger  
Sonya del Peral  
Brenda Robinson  
A. Joseph Scott  
Georgette Steffens

Kaitlyn Smith, New York State (NYS) Department of State (DOS)  
Mike Yevoli, NYS Empire State Development (ESD)  
Darren Scott, NYS Homes and Community Renewal (HCR)  
Ashley Mohl, Capitalize Albany  
Steve Kearney, Stantec  
Phil Schaeffing, Stantec

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The fifth Clinton Square Local Planning Committee meeting took place from 5:00-7:00pm on February 20, 2019 at the Downtown Albany Hampton Inn. The meeting's purpose was to discuss the list of potential DRI projects to inform the list of recommended projects the committee will vote on at the next meeting. Steve Kearney from Stantec presented the attached slideshow and led the discussion.

**Welcome 5:05**

**Conflict of Interest Statement 5:05**

**Planning Progress Report 5:10**

- Final LPC meeting will be held in a different location due to scheduling conflicts
- Housing market analysis has just been updated to reflect affordable housing demand; a webinar will be scheduled for LPC members
- Second public meeting had 50+ people attend to review potential DRI projects and identify their preferences through a priority ticket exercise.
- Co-Chair statement regarding St. Joseph's Church: City is undertaking several projects now – selling the wooden pews to Historic Albany to remove a fire hazard and installing electricity for new fire alarms. Stabilization cost estimates are \$3-5 million, and no feasible re-use has been identified to date.

**Project Review and Discussion 5:25**

- DOS reminders regarding implementation process:
  - LPC will recommend a list of priority projects totaling approximately \$15M in DRI requests.
  - After the DRI plan is submitted March 31, each priority project will be further vetted by the State. DRI funding amounts may be adjusted during this process.
- For private development projects, does the consultant team evaluate whether a project is financially feasible?
  - The subconsultants on the team review the submitted financial information to determine whether estimates of project returns are reasonable

#### **Public Comment Period 6:50**

- Albany County Historical Association: the Ten Broeck organization is a membership group with six areas of public support, including partnering with the City and Albany Housing Authority.
- Is the Church of the Holy Innocents owned by CapRep?
  - No, but they have a memorandum of understanding with the current owner
- Will new signage be coordinated across different areas downtown?
  - Yes, it will be
- Ten Broeck Triangle homeowner: I agree that rehabbing St. Joseph's Church would be costly, but it's part of the city's skyline and an important part of the neighborhood
- Ten Broeck Preservation League: we understand that finding a reuse for the building may be difficult, and glad to hear some improvements are underway; would like exterior improvements like lighting, doors and windows, to visually enhance the neighborhood; St. Joe's is an asset

#### **Meeting Adjourned 7:00**

#### **Next Steps**

- The final Local Planning Committee (LPC) meeting will be held Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 5:30pm at the Community Loan Fund of the Capital Region office at 255 Orange Street. These are working meetings for the committee but all LPC meetings are open to the public.
- Public meeting #3 is scheduled for March 13, 2019 at the Palace Theatre.
- Based on all the LPC and community input and consultant team review, the consultant team will prepare a list of DRI projects for the LPC to recommend for funding that will be discussed and finalized at the next LPC meeting.