

Natick 360
Honoring Our Past. Planning Our Future.



Strategic Planning Oversight Committee
Minutes * May 30, 2007

Present

Rosemary Driscoll, designated by the School Committee
Terri Evans, at-large member
John Heerwagen, at-large member
Bill Mayhew, at-large alternate member
David Parish Co-Chair, designated by the Board of Selectmen
Craig Ross, Co-Chair, designated by the Finance Committee
Harlee Strauss, at-large member

Absent

Matthew Gardner, designated by the Conservation Commission
George Richards, designated by the Planning Board
Andres Rochwerger, at-large member

Consultants Present

Phillip Blackerby, Blackerby Associates (by telephone)

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. EDT by the Co-Chair, Mr. Ross, in the Ed Dlott Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Town Hall, Natick, MA 01760. A quorum was present.

Item 1: Minutes

The Committee considered the minutes of May 16, 2007. Mr. Heerwagen moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Parish. Ms. Evans noted a correction. Ms. Strauss moved to accept the minutes as amended, Mr. Mayhew seconded the motion, and the Committee voted 7-0-0 to approve the minutes as amended.

The Committee considered the minutes of May 22, 2007. The Committee decided to table consideration of these minutes until the next meeting.

Item 2: Coordination with Sponsoring Boards

Mr. Ross presented an overview of the Natick 360 strategic planning process, the SPOC's role in this process and introductions of the SPOC members present. He described the June 8-10 Strategic Choices weekend at Kennedy Middle School.

a. Update on Phase I document

School Committee is still considering the Phase 1 document.

Finance Committee approved the Phase 1 document with some changes.

b. Update on status of Phase III document

- *Planning Board* is not scheduled to meet in public session as a Board before the Strategic Choices Weekend. Ms. Evans will speak with the Chair about scheduling a special meeting.
- *School Committee* appointed a subcommittee to work on both the Phase I and Phase III document; feedback is expected by Friday, June 1, then the Committee will consider it early next week. The School Department is assigning costs to the decision items, and will send these data to the subcommittee first. This will be too late to get into the Board of Selectmen briefing book for their Monday meeting. If the costing information could be included in the draft tomorrow, then it could be distributed (still as a draft) to the other committees.
- *Board of Selectmen* is scheduled to consider the document next Monday.
- *Finance Committee* is considering meeting next Wednesday to consider the document.
- *Conservation Commission* is considering meeting next week, but is waiting for a complete document to consider.

The Committee discussed options to pursue in case the document is not approved by all five boards and committees in a timely manner. Publication of the list of options in a draft document is one option.

Item 3: Phase IV Survey – Kickoff Meeting

SPOC has recommended to the Board of Selectmen that ETC Institute be hired as the survey research firm. The Board of Selectmen will consider the contract on Monday. Project Manager Chris Tatham will fly to Natick for a kickoff meeting with the SPOC. Alternative dates include: June 15, 18, 21, 22, 27 and 29. The Committee decided to meet with Mr. Tatham on Thursday, June 21, in the evening.

Item 4: Strategic Choices Weekend June 8-10

a. Publicity

About 5,000 flyers have been distributed so far. Electronic version of the flyer will be posted on the www.Natick360.org web site. An article appeared in last week's *Bulletin & Tab*, and another will appear this week. Keynote speaker will be Marc Draisen, Executive Director of MAPC, who will discuss the MetroFuture planning process. He will write a guest article in the *Bulletin & Tab* June 8; this piece can also be sent to potential registrants. Town Meeting members and people who registered to attend last October's event all received an email with a personal plea to participate. Another email, perhaps two, will go out to the 600-person email list. An invitation to the Key Informants should also be sent. Banner is up over Main Street. A few signs are still available.

b. Volunteers

This year is different from last October. Some donors have changed their policies and processes. May have to purchase some food items, unlike last October. Mr. Ross will update the Committee's budget, to develop a food budget, particularly for the two lunches. A number of smaller pizza restaurants will be solicited.

Volunteers to help stuff registration packets and to staff registration tables have begun to step forward. Lots of opportunities remain, on Wednesday, June 6, at 6:30 p.m., and Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 8-10 at various times.

c. Town Meeting Registrants

Mr. Richards will work at Town Meeting tomorrow evening to get Town Meeting members registered, and hand out registration forms.

Item 5: Other Business

Mr. Parish noted that this Friday, at 7:45 a.m., MetroWest planning session at MathWorks, sponsored by . Pre-registration is required.

The Committee considered Blackerby Associates, Inc., invoice number 07-014 for services during the month of May, 2007. Ms. Strauss moved to approve the invoice, Ms. Driscoll seconded the motion, and the Committee voted 7-0-0 to approve the motion.

Mr. Heerwagen moved to adjourn, Ms. Driscoll seconded the motion, and the Committee voted 7-0-0 to approve the motion. The Committee adjourned at 7:53 p.m.