

MINUTES OF THE TRANSIT CENTERED DEVELOPMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

February 11, 2010

The Transit Centered Development Steering Committee held a Public Workshop on Thursday, February 11, 2010, at the Baldwin Center, 100 West Broad Street, Stratford, Connecticut.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Denise Nelson, Judy Hampel, Michael Vickerelli, Michael Bingham, Corky (Paul) Corvino, Thomas Yemm, Daniel J. Pato, and Mary Young.

ALSO PRESENT: Dave Killeen (Town Planner), Bill O'Brien, Steven Law, Kurt Schumann, Garrett Driscoll, Neil Sherman, Linda Pepin, Matt Marquis, George Perham, Roger Salls, Chris Curran, Duncan Yetman, Ed Goodrich, Michael Galaty, Karen Forrest (Secretary) and many Town residents who did not sign in.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Denise Nelson called the workshop to order at 7:06 p.m. Chairperson Nelson welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to share their thoughts and ideas. Chairperson Nelson explained to the newcomers the basic goals of the TCD Committee. She encouraged everyone to participate in the Workshop but not to prejudge the project. She reminded everyone that we will be holding a series of workshops, and the Committee would like participation throughout the project process. The TCD Committee would also like to collectively bring all thoughts and ideas of the Town residents to the table and arrive at solutions that will enhance the Community.

WORKSHOP PRESENTATION: Steven Cecil, AIA ASLA, The Cecil Group, consultant for the Transit Centered Development project, presented a Power Point presentation which explained what this project is all about, outlined the general goals and provided initial findings from the research phase of the project. The presentation showed maps of the Town and the various challenges that will be encountered in each area. It also showed other communities the consultants have assisted with similar conditions. There

was a short questions/answer period and then the Workshop divided into three groups at which time they considered several aspects of the Transit Centered Development project.

Each group first participated in a mapping exercise to identify assets and problem areas within a one mile radius.

Following are some of the areas of concern/areas for potential improvement that were identified: Barnum Avenue, Superfund sites, industrial areas near Knowlton Street, waterfront as a resource, Barnum Avenue Cutoff, and Ferry Boulevard. The small groups identified a number of areas to protect and to maintain: historic districts, residential neighborhoods, theatre area, etc.

The groups also came up with a number of questions for further consideration: 1. Should we plan to development to attract new people to Stratford or to address the needs of existing residents? 2. How is Stratford changing and why?

During the second part of the workshop, small groups worked on identifying potential benefits and drawbacks to TCD. Among the benefits mentioned: recycle land and buildings, the Town becoming a destination, enhancement of Stratford Center; creation of a walkable, healthy community, more residential options. Potential drawbacks included traffic, parking congestion, adverse impact on historic district, etc.

The workshop concluded with the groups reconvening and briefly reviewing the main points of their separate discussions. The consultant will provide a more thorough report for the next meeting of the TCD Steering Committee scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT: The Workshop adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Forrest