

1st Cool Downtown Forum
Thursday March 26th 2009
Hicksville Public Library

Introduction

On Friday March 20th the Hicksville Gardens Civic Association received an Email from Ms Patricia Bourne, informing us that the Walkable Community Workshop scheduled for March 27th did not work out. In her email she noted that she would still like to meet with the Hicksville Civic Groups, Chamber of Commerce, and local elected officials to talk about how the County can work together to assist the Hicksville community. Ms Bourne noted that the Visioning Funds mentioned by CE Suozzi are still available.

Upon receiving this information I forwarded the following Email the organizations, municipalities and Elected Officials that represent the Community of Hicksville.

Hello Everyone

Considering all the problems we had getting our letter out to the County before the end of the year I'm really not surprised that three months later the Walk-able Community Workshop scheduled for next Friday has been cancelled due to poor communication.

We, the Presidents of the Civics and Chamber of Commerce, knew about this workshop since January 23rd and it was further discussed at our Presidents forum on January 29th. Our next Presidents forum is scheduled for April 30th and I would really like to get everyone together before then to begin discussions to clearly define what we do and do not want in our downtown.

I am asking for an hour of your time to sit down with our local elected officials to discuss and define exactly what we expect in return for this \$100,000.00 investment into the community we all call home. If a President cannot make him or herself available I ask that he or she send a representative.

I reserved the Library Next Thursday March 26th between 6-7 however I need to know who can attend and who will be sending a representative no later than Sunday March 22nd 9:00pm to develop a workable agenda.

I am sure this will not be the last meeting we have regarding this study however we need to start a dialog amongst ourselves and come to some agreement as to what we do and do not want.

Please provide me with the dates & times beyond next Thursday where you can make yourself available. I will do my best to secure a few more dates, acceptable for all to meet officially in the near future to announce our vision, for our downtown, that we can all be proud of.
Please confirm receipt and get back to me as soon as possible.

Various responses ranging from "show me the money" to "horror" were received.

History

In late September 2008 the County Supervisor held a meeting with The Hicksville Chamber of Commerce to discuss a \$100,000.00 Grant that was being made available to Study the Hicksville Hub. In attendance were numerous Hicksville residents, business owners and publicly elected officials. In October the Chamber, Community Council and Local Civics were invited to Mineola to review the Master Plan for Nassau County. A modified version of this presentation was again presented on March 16th 2009. The HGCA Block & Board, Duffy Park and the Citizens for an informed Hicksville attended a presentation last Fall and this same presentation was again offered at the January 29th Civic President's Forum.

In November 2008 the Hicksville Chamber of Commerce and a representative of each of the five active Hicksville Civics met with State Assemblyman Rob Walker to draft a letter to the County Executive. The majority of the Civic Presidents feel that the map outlining the area of study, on which we all agreed upon in our meeting with State Assemblyman R Walker should be given to the County.

The following E-mail was sent to all on Tuesday March 24th

To all:

The question has been raised as to whether we have the county funding for the project. The funds mentioned by County Executive Suozzi are available in the amount of \$100,000.

The requirements to use the visioning funds are:

- Community defines downtown problem or problems to address
- Involvement by all local stakeholders (civics, chamber, town, elected officials, school district, fire and police departments, etc.)
- Hiring a planning consultant by the local community to assist the community to address the Issues
- Final report with specific community recommendations that can be implemented.

So far, we have worked with both the Town of Hempstead and the Town of North Hempstead, several villages (Farmingdale, Hempstead, Freeport) and the City of Glen Cove. In each case, the local municipality entered into a contract with the county. The county has provided the funds by reimbursement.

We at the county look forward to working with you on this project. We will be available at Thursday night's meeting to talk more about it and answer any questions you may have about the program.

Patti Bourne Nassau County Planning Commission

Report 032609

I called the meeting to order 18:00hrs sharp as noted in the invitation. In attendance were: Hal Meyer (T.O.B.) Leonard Genova (T.O.B.) ED Mangano (N.C. Legislator) Doreen Pennica County's Legislators office, Margaret Fiore (Block Captain HGCA) Joel Berse (Pres. NWCA).

Daniel Bloomfield (Sen C, Johnson's office) and Patti Bourne (N.C. Planning Board and Bob Piazza (N.C. Planning Board)) arrived at approximately 18:15 and Lionel Chitty Tom Pfeiffer (Midland Civic Association) arrived at about 7:30

I was concerned that the communications between the Chamber and the County, the communications between the County and the Town, and most importantly the communication and information the Civics were receiving had broken down to a point where everyone needed to be put into the same room to make a decision on this project forward. Prior to the meeting various parties were pessimistic regarding this grant and the strings that may be attached.

We are happy to report that the meeting was a success and that the Town has agreed to match the funding from the County and add any additional money's required within reason to complete the study of what the resident homeowners and small business would like to see our down town become. The Hicksville Chamber of Commerce has agreed to continue as the lead community organization involved in this effort and we hope to hear more from the Chamber, the County and most importantly the Town in the near future as the money's are approved and the process begins. Ms Margret Fiore has been appointed chairperson of the Cool Down Town committee representing the Hicksville Gardens Civic Association. I urge every resident homeowner within the community of Hicksville to take notice of what is being

discussed and to become involved in the process. Those involved will decide on who will do this study and what the community would like to see their downtown become. Whether it's cool, hot, warm or cold will depend on the input received from those who involve themselves in the process.

Thank You for your time and dedications to the Community we all call home.