Mayor’s Task Force Meeting Notes
April 25, 2014
SUNY Delhi, Bush 131

Present: Richard Maxey, Barbara Jones, Elizabeth Sova, Betty Reed, Irving Reed, Monica Roth, LouAnn Matthews-Babcock, Greg Kryston, Tom Liddle, Elizabeth Outsen, Joel Smith, John Prindle, Mike Mills, Perri DeFreece, John Padovani, Will Outsen, Josh Kaplan, John Huber, Christina Viafore, Ray Barber

- Richard Maxey, Mayor of Delhi, welcomed the committee members, and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- Student Senate coordinated a Community Service Challenge to coincide with April being Community Service Month. CADI offered $5 per hour to Student Senate if students could complete 1000 hours of community service, for a $5,000 maximum, which they achieved. Student Senate named the Delhi Fire Department, the Community Pool, Heart of the Catskills, BIG Buddies & Safe Against Violence as organizations that would receive $1000 each.
- Christina Viafore, Marketing Manager for the College Association at Delhi Inc. (CADI) shared their mini-grant donations for 2013-2014. This past year CADI has donated over $1400 to 13 local organizations by request. This established program is offered to off-campus groups, non-profit organizations and events within the community. Information and request form is located online at www.delhi.edu/cadi/donation.php. SUNY Delhi students are already prepping for the survivor dinner, provided by CADI for Relay for Life this weekend. This will be the 12th year for Delhi’s Relay for Life with Greg Kryston as the master of ceremony.
- Elizabeth Sova, Director of the O’Connor Center for Community Engagement (OCCE), shared a list of recent partnership activities between SUNY Delhi and the community. Elizabeth also shared the new Service-Learning Brochure. To become a community partner, contact Elizabeth at the OCCE 607-746-4781. There is an upcoming celebration for community partners on June 5 in Alumni Hall.
- Monica Roth, Community Assistant (CA), along with De moy Smith, have been collaborating with Kim MacLeod, Director of Communications, to create a Facebook page to publicize their events and review policies for living in the village. The CA’s recently created a “What I Like About You” card for off-campus students to fill out to tell neighbors or local businesses what they like about them. CA’s delivered these cards around Valentine’s Day. Off-campus visits will occur on Thursday May 1 beginning at 6:00 pm. University Police, Student Life Staff, CA’s and Delhi Police Department will visit off-campus students at their homes to discuss the qualities of being a good neighbor and what it means to be part of a community. The focus of these visits is to establish positive relationships and to prevent problems in neighborhoods.
- John Padovani, Director of Residence Life, reiterated the SUNY policy for students living off-campus. Tom Liddle, Code Enforcer, does his inspections every October and then again half-way through the spring semester. One recurring problem is students removing batteries from smoke detectors.
- John Prindle, Delhi Resident, praised the work of SUNY Delhi and the Delhi Police Department in instilling a more positive atmosphere for him and his family on Delaware Ave. There is off-campus housing for students located next to his home, and he has been very happy in the past 18 months with the progress of incident prevention.
- A question was raised regarding the role of the landlord for off-campus housing. Tom stated that if the landlord does not live within a certain distance from the property, a managerial position will have to be
established to take calls and responsibility for violations. The village has been crafting additional regulations for landlords to enhance property management. Tom would be the person to contact should there be a problem with a landlord or building issues. The Tenant’s Rights booklet is available to students at freshman orientation, online, from the Student Life Office and through Tom’s Office.

- SUNY Delhi, having many two year programs, can see a quick turn-around in students. The college strives to successfully educate each new class, beginning at Orientation, about their behavior on and off-campus.

- Betty & Irving Reed, residents on Elm St., praised the college for all the work they have done with instilling a sense of community in the off-campus students living recently in their neighborhood.

- Joel Smith, Vice President for College Relations, would like to see a cleaner downtown. He suggests an initiative set for business owners and residents to keep their property free of trash and their public sidewalks clean and clear.

- The Greek Organizations received a thank you for their work in cleaning up all the litter and debris left over from the successful St. Patrick’s Day Parade. The cleanliness of both sides of the street was obvious after the procession. The parades have become an activity that has promoted positive town/gown relationships and everyone is looking forward to continuing this partnership.

- The Catskill Mountains Film Festival is taking place on campus this weekend, Friday through Sunday. This festival consists of three days of movies, films and documentaries by students, local community members, and professionals. Information about the schedule and tickets can be found on the Catskill Mountains Film Festival website [www.catskillmountainsfilmfestival.org](http://www.catskillmountainsfilmfestival.org). Information can also be found linked from the Chamber of Commerce website [www.delhiareachamber.com](http://www.delhiareachamber.com).

- Randy Noojin will perform his one man show "Hard Travelin’ with Woody" on Thursday, May 1, International Workers Day, at 12:30 p.m. in The Okun Theatre at SUNY Delhi. This tribute to Woody Guthrie is free and open to the public. Special thanks to UUP and CSEA for sponsoring this event.

- Mayor Maxey shared the new Sidewalk Project with the group. ADA compliant sidewalks will be installed in four places: Lower Main St.; Orchard St. to Delview Terrace; North Main St. through the Delhi Legion; and from Shelton Dr. to O’Connor Hospital. This project is estimated to begin over the summer months.

- Mayor Maxey also shared the plans for the River Park & Walk project. The route will go from the Kingston St. Bridge, along the river to O’Neil’s Shire Pub. There is a plan for an ADA compliant fishing spot and an ADA compliant boat launch. Joel suggested applying to the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) for a Green Space grant. The plans for introducing storm water retention ponds as well as walkways from Main St. to the walk should be finalized by the end of the summer.

Upcoming Events

- Randy Noojin ‘Hard Travelin’ with Woody’ – Thursday, May 1
- Off-Campus Visits – Thursday, May 1
- Catskill Mountains Film Festival – Friday, May 2-Sunday, May 4
- Delhi Village Clean-up – Saturday, May 4