Mayor’s Task Force Meeting Notes  
November 8, 2013  
SUNY Delhi, Bush 131


- Richard Maxey, Mayor of Delhi, welcomed the committee members, and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- Elizabeth Outsen, Secretary Student Life, presented the new About the Local Area webpage that is featured on the SUNY Delhi Campus Life website. This page was created for students and parents, both current and prospective, to see what Delhi has to offer from a student’s point of view. The page also consists of links to area eateries, news and recreational activities. Elizabeth welcomed all feedback and any suggestions of additions to the site.
- The Chamber of Commerce offered a ‘Welcome Back Coupon’ page for all students. The coupons were distributed with each Handbook & Planner for freshman and returning students. This was met with limited success. The Chamber would like to determine a better way to reach out to students and invite them into the community. Al Perkins, Chamber Member, spoke of inviting student leaders to attend an upcoming meeting to brainstorm ways to increase students patronizing downtown businesses.
- The Big Investment Group (BIG), a student organization, promoted businesses in Delhi this semester by creating the ‘BIG Discount Card.’ Students, faculty and staff were encouraged to purchase the card for $10. Local businesses who wanted to participate gave discounts when card owners presented their cards at checkout.
- Drew Laemmermann and Protima Singh, both Community Assistants (CA’s), coordinated a successful Community BBQ on September 30. There was a mix of 50 attendees, including off-campus students, faculty, staff, local business owners, and local residents. Since this was the first year of the Community BBQ, the CA’s hope to do more advertising next year to promote more attendance. Drew and Protima supported the annual Community Halloween night at the Delhi Fire Hall. They assisted in creating a safe environment for children to paint mini-pumpkins, do crafting, play games, and get their face painted. About 100 children attended the event. Congratulations to Drew, who will on internship next semester and Protima who will be graduating this December. We will welcome two new CA’s at our next meeting.
- The Holiday Parade will be Saturday December 7. We will, once again, line up on Clinton St. at 10am. Parade will start at 11am. College clubs will be encouraged to participate.
- Elizabeth Sova, Director of O’Connor Center for Community Engagement (OCCE), shared upcoming OCCE events. Elizabeth spoke about the highly successful Community Cleanup Day and OCCE is looking forward to doing it again next semester. SUNY Delhi is once again on the Presidential Community Honor Roll. If there is anything that needs to be done in the community, Elizabeth urges everyone to contact her or her office to help. Elizabeth also promoted the Service-Learning courses that are available at SUNY Delhi. She is always looking for new courses to add to enrich the academic success of all students. Al Perkins also invited Elizabeth to attend the upcoming Chamber Meeting. Elizabeth is working on a brochure to explain Service-Learning in conjuncture with local businesses.
Will Outsen, local business owner of Main St. Cards & Gifts, wanted to extend a thank you for all the OCCE volunteers that regularly provide assistance with Delaware County Community Action Network (DCCAN) events. Recently DCCAN had their 3rd annual Pumpkin Paintin’ Scarecrow Makin’ event in Courthouse square. Students from OCCE and SUNY Delhi were an immense help.

Al Perkins recognized students who are often helping out at Chamber events. SUNY Delhi students have always been supportive no matter what the task, where or when.

The SUNY Housing Policy was revisited. John Padovani, Director of Residence Life, explained how this year was unusual due to many late students requesting on-campus housing. Factors that also contributed were the increase in off-campus housing options, a greater number of December graduates, student convenience and financial factors. We all hope this does not become a trend.

Drew Laemmermann, Protima Singh and Josh Kaplan, President for Greek Council, each voiced their individual opinions about living off-campus versus on-campus. Freedom of off-campus living is a huge turn on for students, but there is a definite convenience factor lost in that transition. Since Delhi has a majority of associate students, who only attend one or two years, there are many students who are not ready to live off-campus.

The question was raised as to whether housing, temporary or permanent, for staff or faculty would be an appropriate option. John Huber, Assistant Director of Student Activities, believes that would be a tremendous asset to the community. John suggested this housing should strictly be staff and faculty and not a mix with students.

Barbara Jones, Vice President for Student Life, mentioned several areas in the village that are not properly lit at night. Many of these areas are frequented by students. This is not just a college issue, but a general safety issue. Some of the dark areas are attributed to a lack of utility poles. Mayor Maxey advised everyone to report lights that are out to his office. Each light has a number on the poll or you can report the light based on the address it is closest to.

Barbara Jones brought up the topic of an ‘Adopt a Spot’ program, as request by President Candace Vankco. Litter is a general problem not only in the village, but on campus. Ray Barber, President of Student Senate, is already planning to revive the on campus Adopt a Spot program. If that is successful, the Student Senate will try to tackle off-campus. Will Outsen wanted to thank Chief Mills and the Delhi Police Department. There has been less foot traffic on the private property between Second St. and the alley running to Main St., so there has been less garbage and litter on his property. Joyce Sen, local resident, asked if there was a fine for littering in Delhi. Perhaps we could create a new revenue stream.

Barbara Jones reported on the President’s Athletic Task Force Report that was recently submitted. This report discusses the future of Athletics, considering a possible change from NJCAA to NCAA, and how this would impact the entire institution.

Al Perkins, gave an update on the progress of the Community Pool. A grant has been received from the NYS Parks & Recreation Division, which means every step of the pool building process must be shared and approved before moving forward. We hope to break ground in spring 2014.

Upcoming Events
- December 6-8 – Fall College Players Production, Farrell Student & Community Center, Okun Theatre
- December 6 – Holiday Bazaar, Farrell Commons, 11am-5pm
- December 7 – Holiday Parade