

You Spoke. We listened.

Let's partner to preserve our values!

Organization: Downtown Hampton Development Partnership

Meeting Date: 4/26/11

in Attendance: 12

- Is the cigarette tax a tax that Hampton will keep 100%?
- The landscape contractor for downtown, will they be dedicated to downtown or other areas?
- We are all in favor of a contractor.
- How many of the chats have you had and how many people participated?
- As a career management professional, what do you feel are the key city services?
- The recession has been hard on everyone, I don't think there is any way we can tax ourselves out, our biggest handicap going forward is our reliance on NASA and Langley, so anything that we can do to generate business activity and revenue is needed.
- I thank you for not putting the boat tax back out there.
- There are other opportunities like at Peninsula Town Center where there are people that started out as a 2-man shop, those 2-man shops grow, we need to work with that.
- Please encourage the Mayor to go to the various meetings and help with networking to keep businesses here in Hampton.
- The communities that don't have many boats would love to have a boat tax.
- On the business concept, I think there is a disconnect between business and Council in that businesses provide the revenue that provides the money for the city services. There is a general disconnect in Council's understanding on the importance of the business sector.
- Let me go back to the boat tax, In Boater's Magazine, there are 50 cities listed that are fitting for boaters and Hampton is one of them, we should be proud of this.
- We have walked around and identified about 5 or 6 areas that needed attention with landscaping downtown. We were going to hire a contractor and fund it. But now after hearing Mary's input, it may work better if we can give our input to the hired contractor.
- Typically when a document has to go to bid, you are easily looking at 90 days before that comes to pass, I would suggest we find someone to do the landscaping work in the interim for the time between now and when we get the contract finalized.
- Sherry, will you also get with Jim to make sure the scope of the contract includes our needs.
- There was discussion of running the landscaping contract through DHDP so it can move faster and avoid the 90 days process, is that possible?
- Can you give us any input on our sign for our building that we have been waited for over a year to get? I can't seem to get a straight answer on the delay.
- Sallie of CSB has been very helpful but I can't see her having to take the \$50K from her operating budget to put towards our sign.
- One of the biggest attractions downtown is the Miss Hampton boats, and we have this nasty sign identifying the DHDP. We need to get it corrected. Power boxes are also an issue with graffiti, it is an eyesore.
- Another thing about the sign, if there is a problem if you all have a little bit of money we don't mind taking the lead on it with design, etc. if we can get some kind of reimbursement.
- We can provide some of the support services since it is for our immediate area.
- The thing that bothers me about the power boxes is they are so visible.

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- In the past we have received \$50K advertisement grant, will we receive that again this year?
- Are there any threats to the BIDS?
- What can be done about the boat tax to get it so it is not an issue raised every year? Talking with the Bluewater people, their customers are looking for a longer commitment than 1 year.
- A boat tax is not the only thing that keeps coming up. People are always fussing about something, i.e. streets and roads, and they complain every year.
- What we have as a true issue today is we go make the argument to Council and Council okays it and now in my mind it is done, but the following week at a council meeting, Mr. and Mrs. Bag of Donuts show up and they complain again and instead of Council saying so-and-so was here before and brought this up, the council starts it up again. That is part of a disconnect.
- As Mary said in her talk, it is the livability of the city that makes people want to live in Hampton over Newport News, Poquoson, etc. It is our quality of services.
- If you want to see a firestorm in Hampton, let Jim Wilson say that they want to close a community center and people will storm city hall upset.
- The tighter the economy gets the more people take their kids to the library for free use of books and resources instead of buying.
- Are they cutting anything or changing hours of the Hampton History Museum?
- Thank you for coming and giving us your time.
- The important White Marsh meeting today, will that be televised?

All questions asked were answered.

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