

Dissolution Study Committee (DSC)

Minutes

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Oct. 13, 2010

Civic Center Community Rm
6 – 7:30 p.m.

Chairperson: Tim Connolly

Present: Michele Arnold, Tim Connolly, Ruth Garner, Cindy Goliber, Eleanor Hopke, Alexandra Jacobs, Mark Lee, Dan Parker, Mario Pusateri, Marie Regan, Rose Rivezzi, Will Siegfried, Steve Warr, Mike Zagrobelny

Excused:

Absent: Jack McGuire

I. Minutes: 9/22/10 minutes approved

II. Announcements and Updates:

- A. Tim Connolly presents at the Potsdam Village meeting October 18, 2010
- B. Dave Fenton has been appointed Potsdam Village Administrator
- C. Manchurian Sand Pears – making jam out of them is a metaphor for the dissolution process: taking what we have to make it better

III. Discussions:

A. Committee survey responses -

1. Common “outcomes” themes

- a. important to answer these questions, without losing nuances/details
- b. should we assign sub-committees to answer specific “outcomes” ?
- c. should we group “outcomes” into 3 categories?
 - Costs/taxes
 - Unified vision
 - Impact on services
- d. CGR recommended 3 categories:
 - Function (how it will look, what services will be provided)
 - Form (what we want, 1 government or 2)
 - Costs (can one government be more efficient/effective)

2. “Barriers/concerns”

- a. broad range reflects the diversity of the DSC
- b. diversity of Town and Village requires ability to understand all needs, wants and interests [*needs* are strongly linked to population density]
- c. be aware of negative perceptions- reflect human nature (*fear, anxiety, etc.*)

3. Implications for DSC and progress

- a. broad, diverse “outcomes” – DSC must be able to describe/explain each detail

b. DSC adopts *Consensus*, not majority vote; this implies acceptance and support by members in the absence of unanimous opinions

B. Sub-committees –

1. Expectation/tasks

a. compile a report including:

- Human impact
- Necessary resources
- Efficiency gains
- Consolidation plan
- Services inventory

b. gather

- comparables from other college villages
- data from department heads
- data from CGR

2. CGR's role –

a. make available preliminary functional data from department heads, quantitative data, and general focus inquiries

b. summarize the sub-committee findings

c. obtain and understand key data

C. Calendar – meeting dates

1. Nov 10, 2010
2. Dec 8, 2010
3. Jan 9, 2011
4. Feb 9, 2011

D. Nov agenda –

1. Subcommittees' reports
2. Survey format and distribution
3. Tax impact modeling

IV. Public Reflections: Steve Yugartis: thanked the DSC for their hard work

V. Next meeting: Wednesday, 11/10 basement Civic Center Planning Office Tech Rm, 6 – 7:30 pm [use entrance between fire station and library]

VI. Adjournment: 7:29 pm

Submitted by Michele Arnold