

Focus Macomb: A Partnership for Economic Development
Quality of Life Committee Meeting
May 31, 2007
Summary

Members Present:

Ameldia Brown (St. Joseph Health Care)
Suzanne Coats (Turning Pointe)
Tony Comito (Retired, TACOM)
Ken DeCock (Boyka's Farm Market)
Jay Goscinski (Remax Acclaim)
Patrick Green (Aon Risk Services of Michigan)
Jack Liang (HCMA)
Ursel Mayo (Mayo Real Estate Group)
Arthur Mullen (Mount Clemens DDA)
Karen Parenteau (Health Alliance Plan)
Chris Pozios (Pozios Properties, LLC)
Paul Socia (Citizens State Bank)
Fred Thompson (Indian Summer Recycling)

Guests: None

Staff:

Maria Zardis
Mike Rozny

Opening:

Co-Chairs Karen Parenteau and Paul Socia opened the meeting at 4:05 p.m. Paul and Karen briefly reviewed the history of Focus Macomb, its first year accomplishments, and plans for 2007. The Committee, it was explained, had considered the term "Quality of Life" in its broadest terms and then targeted one area: reducing negative perceptions of Macomb County, as a worthy objective that could be attained on limited resources. The Committee was reminded that Focus Macomb has a business orientation, and was established in order to attract and retain businesses.

The "what" was determined in 2006, presented to (and approved by) the County Board of Commissioners. The Committee must now focus on the "how", "who", "when", and "next" for 2007. Mike proposed a methodology to implement ideas and capture new ideas for follow-up. These included the identification of:

1. Essential project components
2. Obstacles and roadblocks to implementation, determining whether there are ways to overcome those obstacles
3. Developing a critical path showing the necessary steps to implement the idea
4. Assigning responsibility to an individual(s) and identifying a date for completion.

He also proposed that we consciously capture new ideas for future consideration.

Introduction:

Each member introduced himself and described how they would like to be remembered. This said much about who we are, and what we consider important, and helped us connect with fellow Committee members.

Discussion:

Members asked questions and worked towards a common understanding of our Charge and how we could attain it, using a Quality of Life website, as a case in point. The following were emphasized:

- We should use the name "Focus Macomb" for the website
- We should use existing resources, if possible, through links to other sites
- We should organize the website using the eight priority areas identified by the Committee in 2006
- We should create a pocket brochure of "happenings" in the area to duplicate the website
- We should NOT consider QoL solely in terms of economics. QoL affects people. After discussion, we agreed that we can serve both masters, without losing our focus since businesses want to be where people, particularly those with the requisite job skills want to be. One, in effect, supports the other, and they are not mutually exclusive objectives.

Highlight: The Committee discussed and gained a common understanding of its mission for 2007. Members were passionate and eloquent in expressing their views, and are eager to play a constructive role in the process.

Next Steps:

- Each member will identify a QoL website (preferably in their home area), and be prepared to discuss its features. We need to identify what doesn't work, as well as what does.
- We may invite Mr. Keith Cooley, Director, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to speak. He is interested in Quality of Life issues, would provide the Committee with his insights, and would be interested in the workings of our Committee.
- Establish a meeting schedule and possible alternate venues for the year at our next meeting.

Next Meeting:

June 14, 2007 (4:00 – 5:00 p.m.) at Citizens State Bank (Hall Road between Gratiot and I-94) in the 2nd Floor Conference Room

