



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Planning for Our Region's Future

Bethany Branford East Haven Guilford Hamden Madison Meriden Milford
New Haven North Branford North Haven Orange Wallingford West Haven Woodbridge

Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA
Wednesday August 28, 2013

NOTE: Different Time!

****11:00 A.M. or at conclusion of Regular Meeting****

**Location: 127 Washington Avenue, 4th Floor West
North Haven, CT 06473**

Full agenda materials can be found at our website – www.scrcog.org

1. Call to order – Mayor John Picard, *Chairman*
2. Adopt Minutes of June 26, 2013 Executive Committee Meeting – Page 2-3
Mayor Scott Jackson, *Secretary*
3. Review of and Discussion of RPA proposal for “Envision Greater New Haven” Page 4-11
4. Other Business
5. Adjournment

The agenda and attachments for this meeting are available on our website at www.scrcog.org. Please contact SCRCOG for copy of agenda in a language other than English. Auxiliary aids/services and limited English proficiency translators will be provided with two week's notice.
“Necesidades especiales: a las personas con discapacidad auditiva se les proveerá con medios auditivos y/o intérpretes de signos. Igualmente intérpretes para personas que hablan poco inglés, pero será preciso avisar con dos semanas de antelación. Se puede solicitar la agenda en otro idioma que no sea inglés comunicándose con SCRCOG”.

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TO: **SCRCOG Executive/Personnel Committees**
FROM: **First Selectman Michael Freda, Acting Secretary**
DATE: **August 21, 2013**
SUBJECT: **SCRCOG Executive/Personnel Committees Minutes of June 26, 2013**

Present:

Milford Mayor Benjamin Blake
New Haven Mayor John DeStefano
North Haven First Selectman Michael Freda—*Vice Chairman/ Acting Secretary*
Orange First Selectman James Zeoli
Wallingford Mayor William Dickinson
West Haven Mayor John Picard—*Chairman*

SCRCOG Staff Present: Executive Director Carl Amento, Business Manager Al Ruggiero

ITEM 1 - Call to Order

The Joint Executive Committee/Personnel Committee meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Chairman Picard.

ITEM 2 – Adopt Minutes of April 24, 2013 Executive/Personnel Committee Meeting

Chairman Picard presented the minutes contained in the agenda packet on pages 1-2. First Selectman Freda moved for their acceptance. Mayor DeStefano seconded. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

ITEM 3- Recommendation to Board re: SCRCOG Budget for FY 2013-14

Executive Director Amento and Business Manager Ruggiero reviewed the proposed budget contained on pages 3-41 of the agenda packet. After discussion, the consensus of the Committee was to reduce the proposed salary increases for the Executive Director and SCRCOG staff from the proposed 3% to 2%. Mayor DeStefano moved that the proposed budget be recommended to the SCRCOG Board except that the salary increases be reduced to 2% and that the remaining amount comprising the additional proposed 1% be added to the Contingency line item so that the overall budget totals would remain the same as proposed. First Selectman Freda seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

ITEM 4-Review and Approve Work Program and Goals for FY 2013-14

After review, Mayor DeStefano moved for approval of Work Program and Goals for FY 2013-14 contained in the agenda packet at pages 42-47. First Selectman Freda seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

ITEM 5-Review of Personnel Evaluations

The Committee reviewed the Personnel Evaluations of SCRCOG staff, which were prepared by Executive Director Amento and were handed out at the meeting.

ITEM 6—Recommendation re Proposed Salary Increases

After review of the proposed salary increases contained on pages 48-50 of the agenda package, First Selectman Freda moved approval of a 2% raise for the Executive Director position and the equivalent of 2% increases for the SCRCOG staff to be apportioned as the Executive Director saw fit. Mayor DeStefano seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ITEM 7- Recommendation to Board re Extension of Executive Director’s Contract for 3 Years

Mayor DeStefano moved that the Committee recommend the extension of the Executive Director’s contract for one year. First Selectman Freda seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 8 - Other Business

Mayor DeStefano proposed that the Executive Committee explore initiating a visioning process for the region. The process would involve key stakeholders in the region in a transparent process commencing this fall and lasting 6 months. The Executive Committee would determine who would staff the process---possibly the Regional Plan Association--- and how it would be funded. Mayor DeStefano said he would prepare a draft proposal to be circulated before and discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting, Mayor DeStefano moved that this proposal be reported to the SCRCOG Board. First Selectman Zeoli seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

ITEM 9 - Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by First Selectman Freda and seconded by Mayor Blake. It passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

First Selectman Michael Freda, Acting Secretary

ENVISION (A) GREATER NEW HAVEN

OVERVIEW

The Greater New Haven Region urgently needs a new vision for its future -- one in which all of its citizens and communities have greater opportunities for a more prosperous future. To create this vision, the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) is initiating *Envision Greater New Haven* --which will engage chief elected officials, the chief executives of the region's major employers, higher education institutions and philanthropies and civic and community leaders in a process to envision the future we want for our region. It will also identify the key policies, investments and strategies needed to make this vision a reality --an action agenda for our region for the coming decade and beyond. Finally, it will result in the transformation of SCRCOG through a transparent, public process into an organization that can lead in implementing the regional vision.

BACKGROUND

The Greater New Haven Region -- a 15 town area stretching from Milford to Madison and from Meriden and Wallingford, with New Haven at its Center-- has an extraordinary set of assets: a strategic location at the eastern edge of the New York Metropolitan region, excellent rail and highway access to New York, Boston, Stamford and Hartford, 30 miles of beautiful Long Island Sound shoreline, a collection of some of America's top rated universities and teaching hospitals, including Yale University and Yale-New Haven Hospital, world class cultural attractions and the exceptional quality of life in our diverse urban and suburban communities. We have a diversified economy with strong higher education, bio-technology and advanced manufacturing clusters.

Despite these exceptional assets, however, our region has been underperforming for decades. It has become a slow-growth area in one of the nation's slowest growing states. While our universities and teaching hospitals educate some of the best and the brightest and create world class technology, most of these graduates leave the region for the bright lights of New York, Boston and other faster growing and more prosperous places which provide greater opportunity. And despite the fact that Yale and Yale-New Haven and major industries create new technologies here, most of these are then commercialized in other places, taking job creation, wealth generation, and prosperity with them. The result is stagnating private sector employment, declining household incomes, property values and tax bases and rising property tax rates. And despite years of budget and payroll cuts and major service reductions, many of our communities now face structural deficits and tax revolts over some of the nation's highest property taxes.

At the same, time, decisions at the state and federal level, for example, how to improve New Haven Line, Springfield to New Haven and Shoreline East rail services and where to locate the Northeast High-speed rail corridor --all of which would transform our region's future by strengthening our connections to New York, Stamford, Hartford and Boston-- are being made without our effective input.

And while we have stagnated, a number of other similar mid-sized regions --including Austin, Salt Lake City, San Jose and others-- across the United States and around the world are creating success strategies and seizing a growing share of America's and the world's growth industries. All of these places have forged effective regional partnerships between state and local government, and business, academic, community and philanthropic leaders and concerned citizens to develop visions for these places. These visions and the partnerships behind them have led to the long-term investments, policies and strategies needed to make these visions a reality.

ACTION STRATEGY: ENVISION GREATER NEW HAVEN

Our region urgently needs a similar vision, action agenda and leadership group for the Greater New Haven Region, which can elevate our competitiveness and quality of life

now and for generations to come. To achieve this goal SCRCOG is initiating *Envision Greater New Haven*. This process will engage and mobilize the region's top government, business, academic and philanthropic leadership and citizens to create this regional success strategy.

PROCESS:

This initiative will begin in fall 2013 with an intensive 6-month long visioning process to engage this leadership in the creation of the vision for the region's future. A succeeding 6-month process will finalize detailed short- and long-range implementation measures and staffing needs and federal, state, local government and business, philanthropic and institutional commitments needed to make the vision a reality.

LEADERSHIP:

In addition to SCRCOG's current leadership representing the chief elected officials from our 15 towns, we will invite the new Mayor of New Haven and the new President of Yale University and top business, civic and philanthropic leaders to play leading roles in this effort. A steering committee representing all of these sectors will provide day-to-day coordination of the effort. This effort will be differentiated from previous planning efforts in that its leadership will come from top-level public and private CEOs and its ability to engage and mobilize every sector of our economy in making the vision a reality. It will, however, build upon previous policy and research efforts by SCRCOG and other groups.

STAFFING:

SCRCOG has invited Regional Plan Association, America's oldest and most respected independent urban research and policy group, to help lead and staff this effort, in partnership with SCRCOG's own staff. RPA's President and Stamford resident, Robert Yaro, one of the nation's leading regional planners, and RPA's highly qualified professional staff will work with *Envision Greater New Haven* leaders to carry out both phases and assist with succeeding implementation efforts. Mr Yaro will also serve on

the project's Executive Committee. RPA will also bring staff and consultants from other regional visioning projects to Greater New Haven to help us develop our own strategic vision and action agenda.

BUDGET:

The budget for Envision Greater New Haven is approximately \$225,000.

TIMELINE:

Envision Greater New Haven would begin in September of 2013 with recruitment of steering committee members. Public meetings would begin in early 2014, with drafting of the plan complete by summer 2014 and the release of the final report in early fall 2014.

SCOPE OF WORK:

PHASE 1) RECRUITING HIGH-LEVEL, ACTIVE PARTICIPATION:

Regional Plan Association, led by RPA President Bob Yaro, will convene one-on-one meeting with Greater New Haven's regional leaders: the heads of major academic institutions, employers, non-profit organizations, and municipal and state elected officials. The primary purpose of these meetings is to solicit institutional knowledge about the future of the region and to develop an understanding of shared needs among its diverse institutions that compel leadership to take an active role in EGNH. In addition to individual contact, leaders would be invited to attend a series of breakfast workshops intended to further develop the concept of regional strategic partnerships. Breakfast sessions will feature comments by local leaders as well as by representatives from across the nation that have been part of successful regional partnerships elsewhere.

Finally, a steering committee meeting will include a review of the need for and potential impact of regional strategic planning as well as a presentation of RPA's initial scan of Greater New Haven's most pressing challenges. The steering committee will select from its membership 2-4 co-chairs.

Deliverables:

- Individual recruitment meetings (est. 15)
- Breakfast Workshops (est. 4)
 - Local and national speakers
- Steering Committee meeting
 - Identification of Steering Committee and Co-Chairs
 - Presentation to Steering Committee on Economic Trends in New Haven and its peers, Best practices in Regional Strategic Partnerships
- Press Release announcing initiative

PHASE 2) IDENTIFYING SHARED GOALS FOR GREATER NEW HAVEN:

Envision Greater New Haven needs both the participation and support of the leaders of major local institutions as well as broad public awareness and input. In phase 2, Envision Greater New Haven recruits public participation both by traditional planning methods of large-scale, public events, as well as through online surveys and an online venue for sharing information and opinions.

Public visioning sessions would attract 100-150 people to each session, with an agenda expected to include keynote speakers and panelists as well as breakout sessions into smaller groups focused on individual topics. Each session would be based loosely on the following themes:

- 1) Greater New Haven in 2040 (broad session touching on livability and opportunities for regional growth)
- 2) Promoting economic opportunity (including economic development, education, and workforce development)

3) Environment, Housing, & Quality of Life

Feedback from each session would inform 1-3 rounds of surveys designed to reach a wide and diverse audience across the region. The initiative would also host an interactive website that would provide access to information about the region as well as the initiative's meeting materials, and maintain a forum for submitting comments and discussing ideas.

Phase 2 would include 2-3 steering committee meetings to review the results of public outreach. The objectives of each Phase 2 steering committee meeting include assessing the success of public engagement strategies and recommending changes to the process going forward as well as responding directly to the content presented at each session and the opinions and information received back from attendees with the specific goal of developing goals, objectives, and strategies that address issues identified by the committee and by visioning session and online participants.

Deliverables:

- Interactive project website
- Online survey development, distribution, and analysis of results
- Public visioning sessions (3)
- Steering committee meetings (2-3)

PHASE 3: PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Although phase 2 will include drafting of goals, objectives, and strategies, it is in phase 3 when they would be thoroughly vetted and developed by the steering committee and its co-chairs. RPA will work with the steering committee leadership to prepare a draft strategic plan and make it available for public review prior to adoption. The plan would include identification of lead and supporting partners for each strategy and a timeline for implementation. Upon approval by the steering committee, the draft plan would be circulated for public review and comment.

Deliverables:

- Draft Regional Strategic Plan (expected main content length 20-40 pages, possibly with additional material in appendix)
- Distribution of digital draft plan to partners and online

PHASE 4) PLAN ADOPTION

RPA will present a summary of comments on the draft plan to the steering committee at a meeting prior to development of the final report so that the steering committee may approve any additional changes. The plan will be formally adopted at a final steering committee meeting, at which time a limited number of hard copies will be printed for distribution and the plan will be posted electronically for wider circulation.

Deliverables:

- Regional Strategic Plan (100 hard copies)
- Webpost
- Press release

Envision Greater New Haven	# Events	Bob Yaro	Chris Jones	Amanda Kennedy	Rob Lane	Research Associate	Associate Planner	Ben Oldenburg/ Graphics	Wendy Pollack/PR	GIS	Expenses	Total
Phase 1: Recruiting high-level, active participation												
Outreach to Institutional & Corporate Leaders and Elected Officials	15	45	90								\$ 900	\$ 21,812.40
Breakfast Sessions w/ Guest Speakers	4	16	0	28	14	12	0	28	0	0	\$ 4,440	\$ 15,612.80
Steering Committee meeting & presentation	1	14	14	42	7	35	21	21	0	21	\$ 1,000	\$ 17,235.10
Phase 2: Identifying Shared Goals												
Public Visioning Sessions	3	21	0	42	21	63	28	42	8	63	\$ 11,250	\$ 36,314.07
Online Community Page	7	7	21	7	7	70	35	35			\$ 8,000	\$ 17,746.10
Community Surveys	2	7	35	21	14	100	21	14	7	7		\$ 12,236.07
Steering committee meetings	3	21	14	42	21	63	21	21	0	21	\$ 1,000	\$ 21,187.37
Phase 3: Plan Development												
Develop draft plan for steering committee review	21	14	70	21	21	35	35	35	7	35	\$ 1,000	\$ 27,155.36
Steering committee meeting- review draft	1	7	0	7	7	7	7	0	0	0	\$ 300	\$ 4,282.58
Revise plan for public review	7	7	21	7	7	14	14	14	0	14	\$ 2,500	\$ 11,631.15
Circulation of draft plan	7	7	0	21	7	14	0	0	7	0		\$ 6,296.50
Phase 4: Plan Adoption												
Steering committee meeting- review comments on draft	1	7	0	14	7	28	14	14	0	0	\$ 300	\$ 5,734.24
Final plan revision	14	14	7	21	7	14	14	14		14		\$ 11,274.27
Steering committee meeting- adoption of plan	1	7	0	7	7	7	7	0	0	0	\$ 300	\$ 4,282.58
Press release/Plan Distribution	1	7	14	14	14	14	14	21	7	7	\$ 4,000	\$ 9,934.04
Staff Hours		208	56	475	133	476	133	245	36	168		\$ 222,734.63