

The City has begun through a Capital + Legislative program

234 Main 9:15-9:30 Press

Allen's 784-2211
7:07 Kancot

~~SCRIPT FOR~~ PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCING THE FORMAL ORGANIZATION OF THE DANBURY DOWNTOWN COUNCIL AUGUST 19, 1980

MAYOR DYER:

① Dyer has needed more than most critical periods in his history.

Partnership Between

pub. + private resources is essential for success.

The heart of our city is our Downtown where we select our amenities. Re-Hearted the city is the place for economic revitalization.

GOOD MORNING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA, SOMETHING VERY EXCITING IS HAPPENING IN DOWNTOWN DANBURY.

① IT IS MY PLEASURE AND PRIVILEGE TO ANNOUNCE THE FORMAL ORGANIZATION OF THE "DANBURY DOWNTOWN COUNCIL." THIS ORGANIZATION WAS FORMED THROUGH THE JOINT INITIATIVE OF BUSINESS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, THE PRESERVATION TRUST AND THE GREATER DANBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AND HAS AS ITS MISSION THE ECONOMIC PHYSICAL AND CULTURAL REVITALIZATION OF DANBURY'S CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT. A GROUP OF THIS NATURE IS NECESSARY TO FOCUS ATTENTION AND RESOURCES ON THE DOWNTOWN BECAUSE THE VITALITY OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY DEPENDS UPON THE STRENGTH OF THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT WHICH ALSO SERVES AS THE HUB OF THE REGION, THE DOWNTOWN SERVES TO REFLECT THE IMAGE OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY, AND A DOWNTOWN THAT IS WEAK BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND CULTURALLY CAN PRESENT A POOR IMAGE OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

AS WE ARE ALL AWARE, THE PRESSURES ON A GROWING CITY ARE ENORMOUS, AND TO ENSURE THAT SUCH GROWTH WORKS FOR US RATHER THAN AGAINST US, CLOSE COOPERATION AND PERSONAL COMMITMENT ARE ESSENTIAL. I HAVE MADE SUCH A COMMITMENT TO DOWNTOWN

The possibility of similar network Demand demands that we succeed now.

Implementation

Some other attempts have been made & some that were limited success. The last one, indeed, the years for

① we talked 2 Dyer's - out of quest economic prosperity + one

- Old Lib or Open up
- Old DDC - almost ready to go

Planning group
Govt. man

Road improvements
Proposed DDC Abatement Board
- Mayor's Conf. on Hist. Pres.
- Sign as I. if proposed

Proposed
to take a way
to White St.
Patching down
to extra mess

+ Drew Painter

see
workshop
in

REVITALIZATION, AND WILL WORK PERSONALLY WITH THE DOWNTOWN COUNCIL AS A MEMBER OF ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, TO SEE TO IT THAT THE FULL POTENTIAL OF THE DOWNTOWN IS REALIZED.

Jim Beckelmann

I WOULD NOW LIKE TO CALL UPON ~~Jim Beckelmann~~, A FOUNDER AND NOW PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF THE DOWNTOWN COUNCIL, TO GIVE SOME DETAILS ON THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF THIS NEW ORGANIZATION:

PRESIDENT:

THANK YOU, MAYOR DYER. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST ATTEMPT TO BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO OUR DOWNTOWN. SEVERAL PRIOR ATTEMPTS HAVE FAILED DUE MOSTLY TO THE LACK OF COORDINATION AND ONGOING COMMITMENT. THE DANBURY DOWNTOWN COUNCIL IS THE FIRST LEGALLY CONSTITUTED ORGANIZATION WITH THE ABILITY TO CONDUCT PROGRAMS, COLLECT FUNDS AND TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN DEVELOPMENT AND REHABILITATION EFFORTS.

ANOTHER UNIQUE ASPECT OF THIS ORGANIZATION IS THE BROAD REPRESENTATION ON ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS. THE BOARD PRESENTLY HAS 17 MEMBERS, AND ACCORDING TO OUR BY-LAWS MAY HAVE AS MANY AS 25. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE BOARD REPRESENT SEVERAL KEY ELEMENTS OF THE DOWNTOWN. IT WAS FELT THAT THE CITY OF DANBURY SHOULD BE REPRESENTED, AS WELL AS DOWNTOWN RETAILERS AND PROFESSIONALS, BANKERS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION, AND THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

It was just
to get some
preliminary 2.
I'll see the
City Hall
Downtown

I WOULD NOW LIKE TO INTRODUCE SOME OF THE MEMBERS WHO ARE HERE TODAY: OF COURSE YOU ALL KNOW MAYOR DYER, ALSO REPRESENTING THE CITY OF DANBURY WILL BE THE DIRECTOR OF THE DANBURY REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, JERRY LOMBARDI; REPRESENTING DOWNTOWN RETAIL, JOHN ADDESSI OF ADDESSI JEWELERS; CHARLES BARDO OF BARDO PLATT INC.; FRANK CAPPIELLO OF CAPPIELLO JEWELERS; AND ABE FEINSON OF FEINSON'S MENS STORE. REPRESENTING THE DOWNTOWN PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY IS WAYNE AMBER OF MAIN, HURDMAN AND CRANSTOUN CPA'S; ATTORNEY A. PETER DAMIA, WHOSE LAW FIRM RECENTLY RELOCATED TO MAIN STREET AND ROBERT GOODFELLOW OF GOODFELLOW ASHMORE. THE BANKING COMMUNITY IS ALSO WELL REPRESENTED, BECAUSE ANY DOWNTOWN REVITILIZATION EFFORT TAKES MONEY, AND THE EXPERTISE OF OUR BANKING REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE MOST VALUABLE. WE HAVE YERBURY BURNHAM, VICE PRESIDENT UNION TRUST COMPANY; EDWARD FARRELL, PRESIDENT UNION SAVINGS BANK; DREW PAINTER, VICE PRESIDENT STATE NATIONAL BANK; AND DUNHAM SMITH, VICE PRESIDENT OF CITY TRUST.

IN ORGANIZING THIS COUNCIL, WE ALSO FELT THAT THE CORPORATE SECTOR DESERVED REPRESENTATION. IN EXAMINING REVITILIZATION EFFORTS AROUND THE COUNTRY WE FOUND THAT CORPORATE CITIZENS HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN THE REVITILIZATION PROCESS, NOT JUST WITH THEIR DOLLARS, BUT WITH THEIR IDEAS, THEIR COMMITMENT AND THEIR INVESTMENT IN THE COMMUNITY, OUR CORPORATE DIRECTORS INCLUDE

VIRGINIA BEKASSY, VICE PRESIDENT OF GROLIER, INC; ROY YOUNG
OF FAIRFIELD PROCESSING

Herb

ALSO IN OUR EXAMINATION OF OTHER SUCCESSFUL DOWNTOWN REVITILIZATION EFFORTS, WE FOUND THE INFLUENCE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION TO BE IMPORTANT, BECAUSE WE WANT TO ENSURE A PROPER BLEND IN OUR DOWNTOWN BETWEEN THE OLD AND THE NEW. REPRESENTING THE DANBURY PRESERVATION TRUST IS ITS PRESIDENT DR. HERBERT JANICK. THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS ALSO RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS EFFORT AND WILL BE REPRESENTED BY JAMES BOCKELMAN THE CHAMBER PRESIDENT. AND IN ORDER TO PROVIDE ONGOING DAY TO DAY CONTINUITY OF THE ORGANIZATION THE CHAMBER WILL ASSIGN A MEMBER OF ITS STAFF TO SERVE AS STAFF COORDINATOR FOR THIS EFFORT. THE COUNCIL HAS BEEN ORGANIZED AROUND 5 MAJOR LONG RANGE GOALS. THE FIRST GOAL IS TO ASSURE THAT LAND IN THE CBD IS PUT TO MAXIMUM EFFECTIVE USE, CONSISTENT WITH A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT. WE KNOW THAT THE MAYOR HAS REORGANIZED THE PLANNING PROCESS OF THE CITY, AND WE RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR AN OVERALL COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO DOWNTOWN REVITILIZATION. OUR SECOND GOAL IS TO DEVELOP AND EMPLOY CREATIVE FINANCING METHODS TO STIMULATE INVESTMENT IN THE DOWNTOWN. OUR THIRD GOAL IS TO MAKE THE DOWNTOWN MORE ATTRACTIVE

TO PEOPLE OF ALL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BACKGROUNDS. OUR FOURTH GOAL IS TO WORK TOWARD INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS TO COMPLIMENT CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES. BY INFRASTRUCTURE WE MEAN THE PHYSICAL FACILITIES OF GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS ROADS, UTILITIES AND OTHER CAPITAL ITEMS, WHICH FORM A FRAMEWORK FOR FOUNDATION UPON WHICH DEVELOPMENT TAKES PLACE. AND OUR FIFTH GOAL IS TO IMPROVE THE AESTHETIC, CULTURAL AND MARKETING IMAGE OF THE DOWNTOWN. IN A WAY EACH OF THESE 5 GOALS HAVE AS ^{their} THERE BASIS, TO BRING PEOPLE DOWNTOWN, FOR PEOPLE ARE THE KEY TO REVITALIZATION.

THIS WILL BE A WORKING BOARD, AT LEAST ONE MEETING WILL BE HELD PER WEEK, WHETHER A COMMITTEE OR FULL MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD. COMMITTEES WILL BE ORGANIZED AROUND THE MAJOR ASPECTS OF THIS GOAL PROGRAM. FOR A TIME, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL SERVE AS THE OVERALL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD AND WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR THE DOWNTOWN. WE WILL ALSO HAVE A COMMITTEE ON PROMOTION AND ONE ON REHABILITATION. WE ENCOURAGE ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN THE DOWNTOWN, AND ESPECIALLY DOWNTOWN BUSINESS PEOPLE, TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN OUR COMMITTEE STRUCTURE, SO THAT WE CAN GET THE BROADEST PARTICIPATION POSSIBLE. THE PARTICIPATION OF DOWNTOWN BUSINESS PEOPLE, MERCHANTS, AND PROPERTY OWNERS IS CRUCIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS EFFORT. ^{their} THERE PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMITTEES WILL FORM THE BASIS FOR ALL POLICY ACTIONS.

Hope

THE TASK AHEAD WILL NOT BE AN EASY ONE, AND IT IS PROBABLE THAT MANY DIFFERING VIEWPOINTS WILL BE AIRED IN OUR DISCUSSION. BUT THAT IS PRECISELY WHY WE HAVE CHOSEN TO FORM THIS ORGANIZATION, SO THAT THROUGH DIALOGUE WE MAY ALL ACHIEVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEEDS OF OUR DOWNTOWN AS AN URBAN CENTER, AND COOPERATIVELY, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT DETERMINE THE BEST POSSIBLE SOLUTION AND STIMULATE ACTION RATHER THAN REACTION.

ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?