

Meriden City Center Initiative Advisory Group  
Brief Summary and Action Items from CCAG meeting, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004

The meeting convened at 6:00 with a welcome presentation by Mayor Mark Benigni, highlighting the progress Meriden has made over the past few years, and looking forward to the revitalization of downtown. He encouraged and thanked the Advisory Group members for participating in this community process.

The facilitator, Stacie Smith, was introduced, and reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the Advisory Group members, the facilitator, and MERG & BL Companies. (Handouts attached). The members of the Advisory Group then introduced themselves.

Wayne D'Amico, of MERG, and Geoff Fitzgerald, BL Companies, then presented on the history and present of the City Center Initiative (summary attached). Future topics for discussion were introduced (attached).

Advisory group members asked questions and made comments about the public engagement process, the needs for redevelopment, and additional topics for discussion. The following are comments requiring follow-up, with responses:

- Members asked that they be given further guidance in how to outreach to their constituents. *In response, MERG and the facilitator will develop a briefing of "Suggestions for Outreach," which will be sent to all Advisory Group members in early January.*
- Members requested resources such as photocopying and translation for flyers be made available. *Several locations have agreed to provide a limited number of photocopies for free or very low cost – details will be listed on the Suggestions for Outreach form. We are still seeking volunteers to serve as a translator for flyers or other materials – please contact the facilitator with any suggestions.*
- Some members, such as the service clubs and the senior representatives, requested assistance from MERG & BL Companies to attend additional outreach meetings for their constituent groups. *MERG and the planning team have agreed to make every effort to attend an additional event set up by a constituent group if the event meets the criteria in the Draft Policy on Outreach Sessions, which is included on the Suggestions for Outreach form. Such a meeting has been arranged for the Senior Center. Please contact Wayne to coordinate his participation at an event for your constituent group.*
- The group requested more time before the next meeting, which was originally scheduled for early January, and for the agenda for each meeting be sent at least one week in advance. *The next meeting was moved back to January 25 – a new schedule of meeting dates is being sent to members. CCAG members will receive an Agenda for each meeting at least one week before by e-mail or fax.*
- A number of topics for discussion were raised by members, and requested to be included in the agendas for future meetings. These included:
  - Arts and Culture in downtown;
  - Jobs for Meriden residents during redevelopment;
  - Affordable housing;
  - Safety, and perceptions of safety;
  - Education.

*These topics will be integrated into the agenda items for future meetings.*

The group was asked to confirm their interest in being Advisory Group members, and all did so. In addition, several members of the public suggested themselves or others to fill gaps in the representations of the broad range of stakeholder groups sought by the Initiative. The updated membership sheet is attached.

Time was left for public comment, and the meeting adjourned at 8:50.