

Long Island Regional Council Meeting Notes

May 15, 2014

Long Island Association, Melville

Regional Council Members present:

Kevin Law – Co Chair

Stuart Rabinowitz – Co Chair

Ryan Silva – Deputy Director, Regional Economic Development Councils

Andrea Lohneiss – Executive Director, Regional Economic Development Councils

Tracie Holmberg – Deputy Executive Director, Regional Economic Development Councils

Noreen Carro

Pat Edwards

Elaine Gross

Hubert Keen

Belinda Pagdanganan

Ed Romaine, Supervisor, Town of Brookhaven

Des Ryan

Anne Shybunko-Moore

Bill Wahlig

Non Council Members present:

Bob Brinkmann

Dwight Brown

Jaime Eithier

Sharon Griffith

Mark Grossman

Rich Guardino

Glenn Murrell

Chris Niedt

Peter Scully

ESD Staff present:

Barry Greenspan

Brian Scripture

Brian Teubner

Denise Zani

Kevin Law opened the meeting at 3:00 pm, welcoming all including an introduction of Brookhaven Town Supervisor Edward P. Romaine as the newest member of the LIREDC. Kevin expressed the purpose for meeting agenda items in support of current CFA Workshop initiative. Stuart Rabinowitz reminded the group of next CFA Workshop on 5/30/14 at Stony Brook University. Kevin then introduced Ryan Silva, Deputy Director, Regional Economic Development Councils, to provide overview on CFA Round 4.

Ryan provided information on the REDC statewide process during the past three rounds, noting that \$2.2 B in committed funds are supporting over 2,200 projects that have created more than

100,000 jobs. Round 4 will award up to \$750M in State funding and tax incentives. REDC's will compete for \$150M in capital funds and \$70M in Excelsior Tax Credits. The five regions identified as Top Performers in 2013, including Long Island, will compete for three awards of \$25M each. Ryan also noted the new aspects of the REDC competition in Round 4 to include:

Global NY – REDCs are asked to develop and implement global marketing and export strategies, build foreign trade and investment approaches into their strategic planning efforts.

Promote Veterans' Participation in the Workforce – REDCs asked to create a Veterans Work Group to promote participation by Veterans in the CFA and develop strategies to encourage other potential CFA applicants to include workforce goals related to Veterans' employment.

Support NY Rising Community Reconstruction Plan Projects – REDCs asked to update regional strategic plans to reinforce the value of NY Rising projects that advance REDC priorities to ensure both are benefitting from funds spent.

In closing, Ryan included the need for continuing REDC efforts towards motivating investment opportunities and job creation via the 'project pipeline' while promoting regional workforce partnership initiatives.

Stuart commented on the need for enhanced funding regarding the programmatic issues associated with workforce training. Ryan acknowledged while noting the comment for follow up. Stuart also requested clarification on whether Export markets would include interstate commerce. Ryan's replied the Global NY initiative was aimed at attracting international investment and jobs.

Kevin included that both Global NY and Veterans Work Group (part of Workforce WG) have been created by LIREDC. Ryan noted ESD's International Division as an additional available resource for Export program issues.

Stuart reminded all on required due diligence with regard to the core LIREDC strategies as applied to all projects. Further, he noted the upcoming (6/24/14) Executive Council meeting at the LIA for encouraging discussion and review of the new strategies as well as the Regional Council scoring process.

Andrea Lohneiss informed on the status of Round 3 projects noting that 85% of the forty LIREDC Incentive Proposals have been accepted. Andrea also reported on progress from prior REDC-funded projects including:

Wincoram Commons – Groundbreaking ceremony on 5/1/14 for the mixed use development of 17 acres in Coram included ESD Commissioner Kenneth Adams, co chair Kevin Law, Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone and Town of Brookhaven Supervisor Ed Romaine.

D'Addario & Co – Facility tour 5/1/14 of new guitar strings production line including additional workforce, expanding operations with work formerly done out of state. Also included Kenneth Adams, Kevin Law and Steve Bellone.

United Way LI – Ribbon-cutting at its Passive House project in Deer Park which will provide interactive “lab-house” to train students for energy-related skills.

Andrea referenced an updated, electronic version of the ESD Project Implementation Report which will facilitate project status reporting including jobs created and expenditures made. Kevin stressed the importance of timely and accurate reporting on projects in the context of accountability for all involved.

Andrea reminded the audience of the advantages associated with submitting a Pre CFA towards determining project viability.

Brian Teubner spoke on the aspect of REDC competition specific to Global NY initiative. He noted that global marketing and export strategies are being defined including the use of Department of Commerce resources. Outreach has been made to NYC REDC towards prospective partnership efforts to align regional assets to complete globally in attracting foreign direct investment.

LIREDC Work Group Reports

Opportunity Agenda – Pat Edwards noted the group’s four meetings on continuing efforts in Wyandanch Rising. She commented on initiation of the Workforce Intelligence Project assessment of “supply v. demand” in support of the Greater Wyandanch area. In addition, the Youth Entrepreneur and College Prep initiative was launched on 2/14/14 as reported by Daphne Gordon of SCCC. The focus is to strengthen the 3 R’s skills of aspiring students. Finally, Pat noted the successful ongoing efforts of the NYS DOL providing construction training for Opportunity Agenda area residents.

Workforce & Education – Hubert Keen reported on the two work group meetings held so far at which project sponsors provided updates on progress. He noted ongoing efforts involving Workforce and Education project sponsors relating to the Opportunity Agenda initiative for closing skills gaps within the Greater Wyandanch area. With respect to promoting Veterans’ participation in the workforce, Hubert acknowledged the efforts of SCCC in promoting earned college credit programs for military life experience as well as the advocacy and participation by most of the higher education institutions in increasing veteran enrollment, providing support services and translating skills to college credit. The Veterans committee has been formed and is developing projects focuses on increasing veteran employment.

Natural Assets – Belinda Pagdanganan informed on status of Round 3 projects including Montauk Fish Dock, Montauk Inlet Project, and Browder’s Birds all within project construction phase. She also noted prospective projects for Round 4 as presented at recent (5/6/14) work group meeting. These include feasibility of upgrading the Suffolk County Farm to establish a larger meat slaughtering facility for serving needs of Long Island farmers. Also noted was an initiative to fund construction of a replica 19th century oysterman sloop providing educational opportunities to the area community. Finally, Molloy College informed on plans for establishing a Center for Environmental Research and Coastal Oceans Monitoring to include focus on preservation of horseshoe crabs.

Innovation – Barry Greenspan spoke to the agenda from recent work group meeting including planning for linkage to the Global NY initiative as related to higher education institutions for Round 4. He also noted recent inquiry from an upstate REDC with regard to the SBIR grant program with further collaboration on aligning regional assets anticipated. The group is also engaged with ongoing STARTUP NY discussions as related to innovation based projects.

Infrastructure – Desmond Ryan informed on upcoming meeting (5/16/14) with presentation from the Rauch Foundation on “Parking Plus” initiative to inform on innovative downtown revitalization-based parking facility solutions. Also, Touro Law Center will be describing plans for a Legal Incubator project to support entrepreneurial issues faced by small business / startup companies.

Community Rising – Kevin Law indicted the priority for the Work Group towards developing updated regional strategies to reinforce the value of NY Rising projects as related to REDC priorities for Round 4.

Mwisa Chisunka, Director of Business Tax Services and Education addressed the audience on resources available through her role as ombudswoman. She offered to participate in information clinics for local governments, meet with small businesses, provide information regarding tax and related questions.

Ray Salaberrios, Sr. Director, Economic Revitalization, ESD presented overview on the NYS Job Development Authority program. He noted that the loans are utilized for “bricks & mortar” projects including the acquisition of land, structures, machinery and equipment. Ray is also managing a \$20M fund for MWBE loans where contracts may be utilized for collateral for short term lending by NYBDC and TruFund Financial Services in order for MWBE firms to fulfill government contracts.

Jon Kaiman, Special Adviser to Governor Cuomo & Zach Richner, Policy Director, NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program informed on the status of NY Rising – Sandy recovery efforts. Informed \$400M has been distributed to over 6500 recipients with continued focus on small businesses, area marinas, and municipalities serving the affected regions. The NY Rising Reconstruction Plans (22) are available on line with RFPs in process to implement approved consultant projects. Jon expressed the importance for REDC to reinforce the value of NY Rising projects that advance regional priorities while leveraging the state’s dollars.

Kevin reminded that towns and municipalities must apply via the CFA during Round 4 for projects involving CR areas within their jurisdictions.

Jack Schnirman, City Manager of Long Beach was invited to podium by Kevin to update on the status of storm recovery. He expressed gratitude for the assistance (\$25M), noting the notorious boardwalk is fully reconstructed. Jack reflected on the ‘list of needs’ thought process among the NY Rising community groups as having led to many constructive ideas.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM

