

## Community Economy/Preparing for the Next Boom Meeting Notes

Today's meeting goals: elect a chairman (Michael Lamb was nominated by Doug Issacson, and was approved without objection).

- 2 or 3 tasks needed to be accomplished:
  - Continue to address key issues
  - Develop a list of community assets
  - Develop a list of community challenges
- Agenda Items
  - Merging of Priority 6: preparing for the next boom w/priority 1: community economy vision for the future.
  - What both committees have been up to.
  - Communicating between groups: emails, etc.
- Discussion Items
  - Jim Dodson felt that the conversations between committees were so close that a combined report would be more efficient and meaningful.
  - Deb: What about annexation issues?
    - Underlying Problem: regularly defeated by a vote
  - Brad: Merging the two municipal governments may something to discuss.
  - Doug: Making sure local control is in place is important, but the costs of core services are also an issue. Some economies of scale could be realized in this area. Annexation would allow for that.
  - Deb: the planning commission regularly encounters challenges with working with the ordinances for all.
  - Brad: the "model" of one municipal gov't makes sense
  - Doug: we have 2 home rule charter cities and 1 second class borough, where some powers have been limited.
  - Jim: Would we design the Fairbanks we have now if we could build from scratch? Where do we want to go?
  - Mike: are we talking about annexation within the borough or also outside the borough?
  - Deb: City borough merger should only be part of the discussion.
  - Mike: a budget model for the merger was actually done several years ago. There appeared to be relatively little in the way of duplication of services between municipal entities.
  - Mike: Agendas for all municipal governments are full, and it would be a large work load for local policy makers should the municipalities be combined.
  - People agreed that most folks tend to find the different municipal governments and their relationships confusing.
  - Other topics from "preparing for the next boom:"
    - Gas line
    - What will the community look like?

- Different student types, much higher incident of aggressive behavior per capita in the FNSB.
- Military issues.
- Issues of crime based on influx of certain demographics.
- Trying to plan for some of the military staffing levels/deployments is challenging, as accurate numbers/forecasts are hard to come by.
- Kathryn dodge: trying to understand the numbers is a real challenge. She has a new chart of construction, 1908-2005, which is compared with the population.
- Housing: the number of units is increasing, while military is trying for 5 year leases on property.
- Jim: the leases will be 5 years, but only guaranteed one year of fed funding.
- Zoning issues were mentioned as a concern.
- Deliverables?
  - We need to engage in the process of working together before developing outcomes and deliverable goals.
- Current economy?
  - Economy has been shifting to a service sector based economy.
  - Average income has fallen
  - Do we want to decide what should drive this economy?
    - Service for military?
    - Construction?
    - Mining?
    - Gasline?
    - University?
  - Deb: We have a lot of different economic eggs in the basket. We should work to identify niche economic issues.
- Mike Lamb: We need to talk about what we need to produce by October.
  - What about UAF stuff?
  - What about the website?
- Deliverables and timeline:
  - This is a thinktank
  - This work won't keep going unless people feel their efforts are going somewhere.
  - Some issues should be identified.
  - What we haven't hear yet is: what do we want from Fairbanks?
  - How do we consolidate our goals and move forward?
  - Global warming center?
  - Doug: how do we connect entrepreneurs with professors.
- Mike: what do our young people want to see? He discussed the article he brought in.
- Doug: presented his paper.
- Deb: whatever the vision is; we don't have the tools in place yet. We have no venue for the long term discussion. We don't have the legal or local tools in place to outline the vision.

- Best example of this challenge: cluster developments. We need to plan so kids can play in parks instead of the street.
- Doug: we need to develop these so we have more transportation processes.
- Jim: there are some challenges with forcing a vision on developers.
  - The best development is the one that makes money.
  - How do we move developers towards the vision without them concerned about the costs of realizing that vision. (new street lights, parks, etc.)
- The group needs to identify key issues and vision statements.
- Dan: we are in a tough spot. Goals are good, but we still have a bleak local situation, as there is a lack of adequate law enforcement. Dan discussed the WEIO move, after the murder in the Carlson Center parking lot.
- Implementation is absolutely essential.