

Community Economy: A Vision for the Future  
Preparing for the Next BOOM

Attendees: Doug Issacson, Mike Lamb, Amy Cook, Jim Dodson, Cassie Pinkel, Bernard Gatewood

Start: 7:06 am

Mike- Opened meeting with a review of 8/29/06 minutes

Bernard- made a polite correction to the minutes

Mike- Reviewed tentative Agenda and brought up the requirement by the Think Tank steering committee that the group must formulate a series of questions and an oral presentation for the quarterly meeting on Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. Brought up the questions for the group “Where do we want to be?” and “How do we get there?” looking forward to what we want to present in October. Where do we want to be and what do we think we need to do to get there?

Jim- This is not an easy thing to do... rabbit trails...we need to assemble lots of people and a broad vision of the future. This will develop a collective vision for Fairbanks. Brian was looking at (referring to chart) the past and today. You can't ignore this.

Doug- We are going to be the participants in our own future. This will help paint the picture for the vision of Fairbanks.

Jim- We won't to be participants if we just sit here. What do we want for our forestry, mining, health care industries? We can't bring smart, bright people here if we have nothing to offer them.

Doug- Isn't a part that people are working on it, we just have not got together?

Jim- The presentation will give you a perspective; they will help you recognize that the groups are all working on similar things.

Doug- People both in the raw material and tourism areas are not represented here.

Jim- Look at what Brian was trying to do with this (holds up piece of paper). What is it that brings NEW money into our economy?

Doug- So you are saying we have to work in all these areas. They can expect we will propose a position. For example, North Pole is a rural town in an urban setting.

Jim- Take the assets...I question turning this community into a tourism economy. I question that wisdom.

Doug- North Pole strives to build a sense of pride in the community; we don't want to be like Anchorage (friction). Tourism provides jobs for the youth. We need to work in this area. With schools to correlate dates and with the industry on compensation...Pride in the community encourages economic prosperity and a “pretty” picture.

Bernard- North Pole is a theme city, something that would according to North Pole attract businesses, but let's not forget that North Pole is not totally different. Part of the allure of North Pole HAS to include Fairbanks.

Doug- We want our visitors to Fairbanks to spend extra time in North Pole. To quantify the vision: how should we put it down?

Jim- I'm just Santa's helper you tell me!

Doug- What form?

Jim- I'll tell you this...look at the resources, build on the resources. Theme cities, timber, minerals you need to quantify opportunity. I would start with resources and opportunity. These are the assets we can build our economy on. Visualize a community around those assets. Fill in around that with companies and jobs needed to create those assets.

Mike- I have wanted to do a list of resources for some time. We need to spend one day generating those resources available. To look at where outside money comes into our community and that we are government driven is not a bad thing.

Bernard- Where is the diversity? (Agreeing with Mike's statements)

Mike- BRAC, for example, we need to make sure everything is stable. For example with forest products...I don't feel that is a viable industry.

Jim- I disagree, we are an oil state because that is what the government has chosen, I spoke to the Minors Association last week on community building. We need to take a step back from the "Big Boom" stuff. One quarter of the economy is driven by the DOD's money, are we taking the max advantage of the military? No, let's draw a vision that can change that.

Mike- To change the conversation, Natural Resources such as minerals and other assessments need to be developed. Look at the Fairbanks community and how far the reach is, treat it as an outpost. Are natural resources a supported area we should develop in our economy?

Jim- Absolutely, we got to Juneau and lobby every year for inventories. They are passively supported; we need to tell them what we want Fairbanks to be. They think we want to be driven by the North Slope.

Doug- A few years back we had a couple of people here from the New Yorker. We took them up in a helicopter they asked where all our roads were. We have GOT to develop our resources. There are hundreds or thousands of acres (used specific number) in the borough that offer available resources. We have to utilize these.

Jim- We need to list our resources and opportunities.

Doug- There is timber and the woodchips.

---Discussion on assets, please refer to 4 page with diagram for topics discussed---

Mike- We need to define assets

Jim- (stemming from Mike's original) "Basic resources from which our economy can be built"

Doug- An 'opportunity for income generation.'

Amy- It should not be basic, just resources.

Definition:

**Assets** – 1) A resource from which an economy can be built  
2) Opportunity for income generation

Mike- We also have to look at secondary major assets.

Amy- There are givens, what we have are assets (givens) the opportunity is what they can provide. You take timber (asset) and create a product (opportunity).

Jim- Government spending is an asset.

Mike- You mean non-local, money spent in the community is different than money from the DOD and other federal areas.

Jim- Basic break down, mention of Alaskan government set up modeled after our constitution. "Based on a collect and distribute"

Bernard- Regional Native Corporations are assets.

Meeting ended with discussions on diagram set up ideas to implement assets, opportunities and other areas to demonstrate where we came from and what we want to do. See page 5.

Next meeting will be Wednesday September 20, 2006 at 7am in the FEDC office.

White Board: Assets listed in discussion:

Refinery

Hospital

Entrepreneurs

Work Force

Minerals

Complete Education Systems

UAF

- Education

- Research

Military

- Land and air space

Timber

- Chip wood

Cold Weather

- Stable (no natural disasters or heat waves)

- Ice

Central Urban area

- Rivers

Land

- Air

- Space

International Airport

Free Trade Zone

Transpiration

- Railroad

- Air

- Bus

- Water

Location

- Global access

  - \*Poker flats

  - \*Satellite access

  - \*Uploads and downloads

- Flight distance

  - \*Freight

- Research

Natural Beauty

- Wild life

  - \*Birds

- Interior as an attraction

- Quality of life

- Wilderness

Allure

