

**MINUTES OF THE INNOVATION DISTRICT
DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE MEETING #2**

Thursday, February 18, 2010 at 2:30 p.m.

**Holyoke Heritage State Park, Visitors Center Exhibit Hall
221 Appleton Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts**

Task Force Members Present:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim Brennan, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William Ward, Regional Employment Board |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathy Anderson, City of Holyoke | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Judge, Springfield Office of Planning and Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Gilbert, James Dowd and Sons/Holyoke Chamber of Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Felix Morales, Premier Accounting |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William Messner, Holyoke Community College | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gladys Lebron-Martinez, CareerPoint |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kip Foley, Cover Technologies, Inc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Elaine Pluta, City of Holyoke |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Larry Bay, Holyoke Works | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Nakajima, Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Malone, University of Massachusetts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patrick Larkin, John Adams Innovation Institute – Massachusetts Technology Collaborative |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Doyle, CPA Consultant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Vedovelli, Massachusetts Office of Business Development |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Lavelle, Holyoke Gas & Electric | <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Henderson, MassDevelopment |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Douglas Bowen, Peoples Bank (Holyoke) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Kurose, UMass/Dept. Computer Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allan Blair, Western Mass. Economic Development Council | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Helene Florio, Office of State Senator Michael Knapik |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Linda Dunlavy, Franklin Regional Council of Governments/Pioneer Valley Connect | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natalie Blais, Office of U.S. Congressman John Olver |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Mullin, UMass Amherst | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brenna E. Murphy, Office of State Representative Michael Kane |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dianne Fuller Doherty, Western Mass. Regional Office – Small Business Development Center | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Kennedy, Office of U.S. Congressman Richard Neal |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ira Rubenzahl, Springfield Technical Community College | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donald R. Welch, Holyoke City Council |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carlos Gonzalez, Western Mass. Latino Chamber of Commerce (Holyoke & Springfield) | |

Guests Present:

Richard Baker, GeoSun Design	John Laux, Greendustry Park
Maggie Bergin, Open Square	Wayne, Lehman, Laborers' Union Local 596
Jeff Brancato, UMass	Tom Lobasso, Sovereign/RE Investment
Ann Burke, Western Mass. Economic Development Council	Charles Lotspeich, Holyoke Heritage State Park
Jeff Burkott, City of Holyoke	Francesca Maltese, O'Connells Development Group
Kenn W. Delude, Westmass Area Development Corp.	Carlos Martinez-Vela, Massachusetts Technology Collaborative
Jay Doyle, AECOM	Kevin McCaffrey, Mount Holyoke College
Pat Duffy, Holyoke Redevelopment Authority	Mary Monahan-Burges, AECOM
Carl Edge Jr., HEDIC/HRA/HTA	Mike Raburn, Carpenters Union
Bill Ennen, Massachusetts Technology Collaborative	Samuel Hall, CTDC
Samalid Hogan, City of Springfield	Edmund Starzec, MassDevelopment
Nancy Howard	Lori Tanner, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Brian King, Harvard University	Linda Vacon, Holyoke City Councilor
Michael King	Aaron Vega, Holyoke City Councilor
Robert Kispert, Massachusetts Technology Collaborative	Sandra Ward, Friends of Holyoke Publishing

1. Call to Order, Welcome New Task Force Members, Opening Remarks/Announcements by Co-Chairs and January 14th Meeting Minutes

The second meeting of the Innovation District Design and Development Task Force was called to order at 2:42 p.m. by the Task Force's Co-Chair, Tim Brennan. Mr. Brennan stated that the purpose of this meeting was to focus on several core questions that were raised at the Task Force's first meeting which was held on Thursday, January 14th. Mr. Brennan added that there would be presentations from officials from the region as well as organizations that are involved in the Holyoke Innovation District Project.

Task Force Co-Chair Ms. Kathy Anderson welcomed Task Force members and guests present and noted that the following Task Force members could not attend today's meeting: Larry Bay of Cover Technologies; Bob Gilbert of James Dowd and Sons Insurance Agency; Linda Dunlavy of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, Richard Henderson of MassDevelopment, Allan Blair of the Western Massachusetts Economic Development Council and Holyoke Mayor Elaine Pluta. Ms. Anderson then welcomed new Task Force Members Gladys Lebron-Martinez from CareerPoint, and Holyoke resident Felix Morales who is an accountant and small business owner of Premier Accounting. Ms. Anderson then welcomed Task Force members who were not able to attend the last meeting including: John Doyle, CPA Consultant; Donald Welch, Holyoke City Councilor and Michael Malone, Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Mr. Brennan then announced that today's meeting was being videotaped and he noted this video will eventually be posted on the www.innovateholyoke.com website.

Mr. Brennan asked Ms. Anderson to talk about the highlights of the City of Holyoke's recent meetings with Cisco Systems. Ms. Anderson stated that the City of Holyoke began a series of meetings with Cisco officials at their request. She stated that Cisco staff are looking to know the City better and to understand its planning efforts towards revitalization such as Holyoke's vision plan, its gas/electric initiatives and the City's Holyoke Canal Walk Project, among others. Ms. Anderson explained that Cisco has also begun meetings with Holyoke's key department heads such as the police department, school department, the Holyoke Housing Authority and Holyoke Gas and Electric. Ms. Anderson noted that on February 10, 2010, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) document was signed between the City of Holyoke and Cisco Systems which addresses how Holyoke can potentially use Cisco's technology to improve health care services, education, public safety and economic opportunities in a targeted area. Ms. Anderson noted this initiative is called "Smart and Connected Communities" and she added that Holyoke is the

first city in the nation to sign an MOU for this type of a demonstration project. Ms. Anderson noted that a two-day conference was recently held with key city departments and developers and Cisco. Experts in the areas of public service, economic development, education, and real estate development were brought in from around the country to discuss some of the initiatives that Cisco has undertaken in other parts of the world that utilize an array of new technologies. Ms. Anderson said information from this conference will be compiled and from it an action plan will be pulled together. Ms. Anderson said future development will be shared with the Innovation Task Force members and ideally one or more Cisco Systems representatives could be in attendance at future Task Force meetings.

2. Much More than a Black Box: What is a High Performance Computing Center?

At this point, Mr. Brennan introduced James Kurose, Distinguished Professor of the Computer Science Department in the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Mr. Brennan stated that Professor Kurose's presentation attempts to answer John Mullin's key question from the January 14th meeting, "What Exactly is a High Performance Computing Center?" Mr. Brennan noted that this was a critical question and Professor Kurose's presentation is designed to help Task Force members to better understand what high performance computing is all about as well as its functions.

Professor Kurose stated that a High Performance Computing Center (HPCC) uses large clusters of computers in computing applications that are too large or would take too long for "traditional" computing equipment to handle. Professor Kurose explained that in science and engineering there are three fundamental ways to approach a problem: theory, experimentation, and computation. Professor Kurose added that an example of computation is when we write a computer program that simulates what would happen in the real world. Professor Kurose then outlined how one way that a HPCC can help, namely by predicting the weather over short periods of time by dividing the atmosphere into small chunks and then simulating the flow of meteorological objects to see what will happen. Professor Kurose noted that by understanding what will happen on a smaller scale, meteorologists can program a HPCC to predict severe weather conditions such as tornados. Professor Kurose further explained that there are many other applications for HPCCs in fields such as energy, astronomy, physics, and finance, among others.

Professor Kurose then paused and asked if there were any questions. Mr. Brennan wondered how many HPCC currently exist in our country. Professor Kurose responded that the National Science Foundation (NSF) provides funding support for 11 to 13 HPCCs scattered across the United States and noted that most large research universities will have HPCC facilities. Eric Nakajima asked if Professor Kurose if he had any perspective on what the potential for collaboration there might be between universities and colleges. Professor Kurose responded there is a whole class of science and engineering problems cannot be solved unless there are extensive levels of collaboration underway among institutions in different fields.

Professor Kurose then briefly discussed the outreach and activities in IT education that are taking place at his own institution, the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He cited the Commonwealth Information Technology Initiative which he said attempts to strengthen, modernize and expand IT education in all segments of public higher education. Professor Kurose specifically cited the Commonwealth Alliance for IT Education which is a statewide program which focuses on women and minorities in groups that are under-represented in the Massachusetts innovation economy. Mr. Brennan thanked Professor Kurose for his comprehensive and thoughtful presentation and noted it would be posted soon to the Innovate Holyoke website. He then moved to take up the next agenda item.

3. A Primer on an Atypical Approach to Site Selection: Understanding the Higher Education Consortium's Customer-Centric Role and the Holyoke HPCC Site Selection Process

Under this agenda item, Ms. Anderson called on Kenn Delude, President of Westmass Area Development Corporation and James Lavelle, Manager of Holyoke Gas and Electric, to begin their presentation focusing on the topic of site selection for a HPCC facility. Mr. Delude explained his presentation will focus on the highly atypical process that's currently taking place regarding the identification and selection of a preferred site for the Holyoke HPCC facility. Mr. Delude stated that the unusual nature of this siting process can be attributed to: 1) the project's complexity; 2) the composition of the project proponents, namely the higher education institutions that have come together to work toward a common goal; and 3) the sensitive aspects of project timing and when to publicly disclose the proponents' interests.

Mr. Delude stated that atypical siting approaches have a propensity to eventually evolve into a far more typical process given the need for the project proponent to be flexible; the need for detailed information regarding sites in the available inventory; geological and environmental issues; and the due consideration of the property owner(s) rights. Mr. Delude further emphasized that: 1) the project prospect is the decision maker; 2) the project requirements are defined and can be modified by the project prospect; 3) the project prospect will need accurate and current site information in order to make a final site decision; and 4) the project prospect will choose the site only after all information on the potential sites has been provided to them for a due diligence level of assessment.

Mr. Delude noted that his organization Westmass has been working in concert with the higher education consortium to identify and examine the site considerations that are most important. Mr. Delude asked if James Lavelle of Holyoke Gas and Electric would comment. Mr. Lavelle noted that the process is still in a great deal of flux which is not unusual although the unique feature of the proposed HPCC in Holyoke is that major announcements have been made regarding this project well before as site had been chosen.

Ms. Gladys Lebron-Martinez asked if any of these potential sites were near residential areas. Mr. Delude responded that their analysis encompassed 85 sites all of which are clustered in the canal district of Holyoke and which does have residential areas within it. He further explained that the physical parameters of the future construction will likely be similar to the buildings that have been there historically. Mr. Delude also noted that once the site is better defined he anticipated the higher education consortium would share it with the City and the public at large.

Kip Foley wondered if the information being generated by the site selection process will be made available to the City of Holyoke for use with future developments. Mr. Delude responded yes, noting that the information will be shared once the final site or sites are selected in order that the City and the Task Force members can use this information to plan for future growth and expansion of the Innovation District.

There being no further questions for Mr. Delude or Mr. Lavelle, Mr. Brennan thanked the two speakers and explained that the purpose of the first two agenda items was to provide the Task Force with adequate background information and context. However, Mr. Brennan emphasized that the Task Force's principal job is not to focus on the HPCC facility or the site it will land on but to focus on what can and will happen once this extraordinary asset is built and operational which is anticipated within the next two to three years with construction work anticipated to start in the fall of this year.

4. Reinventing Local and regional Economies: Reflections from North Carolina's Research Triangle Region and the City-Region of Tampere, Finland

Mr. Brennan stated that the purpose of the next agenda item to be presented by Robert Kispert and Carlos Martinez-Vela of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative addresses another question raised at the first Task Force meeting, specifically, what are some examples of existing HPCC facilities that might help the Task Force to comprehend what can take place over an extended period of time once a HPCC is in place. Mr. Brennan then asked Mr. Martinez-Vela to begin his presentation. Mr. Martinez-Vela stated that in order to give Task Force members better context about his role in this project, he first needed to underscore that the role of the MTC is to work at the intersection of industry, academia and government in order to maximize the potential for research innovation to advance the economic development and growth of cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth. He further noted that he and Mr. Kispert are working closely with the Higher Education Consortium as well as the Innovation Task Force to help all of these partners to carefully think through the potential public economic benefits of the Holyoke HPCC project. To do this, Mr. Martinez-Vela then noted that he and his colleague would present in detail two relevant examples, namely: 1) North Carolina's Research Triangle Region; and 2) Finland's Tampere City-Region. Mr. Martinez-Vela then asked Mr. Kispert to talk about the Research Triangle Case study in North Carolina.

Mr. Kispert noted that North Carolina's Research Triangle Region consists of three facilities: Research Triangle Park (RTP); Centennial Campus and the Renaissance Computing Institute. Mr. Kispert said the RTP encompasses an enormous real estate project and it was brought about as a nonprofit initiative of public and private university systems as well as the business sector as a means to try and establish a far different framework for conducting business in North Carolina.

Mr. Kispert noted that the Centennial Campus of North Carolina State (NCS) University, although it is not on the same scale as RTP, it is still a large-scale undertaking and the NCS University is anticipating that it will become a mixed-use development with a total population of perhaps 35,000. He further noted that like RTP, the NCS University had in effect created a critical mass of research, business and public investors which ultimately decided to locate within the boundaries of the Centennial Campus.

Mr. Kispert stated that the Renaissance Computing Institute (RENCI) is, in effect, North Carolina's HPCC. It was established in 2004 to create a critical mass of computing capacity that was greater than any one higher education institution could develop on their own, and this in turn allowed them to go after much larger-scale projects. RENCI also wanted to do this as a way to extend the Institute's capacity to utilize its HPCC to provide benefits throughout the state of North Carolina.

Gladys Lebron-Martinez asked how the local schools can benefit from these types of HPCC facilities. Mr. Kispert replied that RENCI has a substantial outreach program and it has facilities within the Institute that are used not only by universities and colleges but K-12 education as well.

Next, Mr. Martinez-Velez then began his presentation focusing on the city/region of Tampere, Finland. He noted that Tampere is interesting because it is a birthplace of the industrial revolution and that over hundreds of years Tampere has continued to reinvent itself. He further commented that the common theme regarding the places that have been discussed by him and Mr. Kispert is that these areas have been able to reinvent themselves is due to the strong alignment of institutions and resources which can successfully change the economic development trajectory of the local and regional economy. Mr. Martinez-Vela then showed Task Force members a brief video on the history and development of Tampere, Finland. Mr. Brennan thanked both presenters for their excellent presentations and he then moved to the next agenda item.

5. Food for Thought: Three Questions to discuss and Provide Input for the Development of a Request for Proposals (RFPs) to be Used to Engage a Consultant or Consultant Team to Help Assemble the Proposed "Innovation District" Strategy

Following the video presentation on Tampere, Mr. Martinez-Vela asked Task Force members to consider the following core questions which he noted were also listed on today's agenda:

- What does reinventing the local and regional economy mean to you?
- What are some ongoing efforts to reinvent the economy that need to be accounted for an integrated into a comprehensive reinvention strategy?
- What are the key categories of assets and aspirations of the city/region that could be incorporated in the request for proposals (RFP)?

Ms. Anderson noted these were important questions and further commented that Task Force members are being looked to as the visionaries of what could and should happen in the City of Holyoke as well as in the region with the presence of the Holyoke HPCC asset. Mr. Brennan asked if there were any questions for Mr. Martinez-Vela and Mr. Kispert. There being none, Mr. Brennan stated that at the next meeting of the Task Force the principal item on the agenda will be to focus on a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant or consultant team that will be expected to plan with the Innovation District Task Force and not for it. Mr. Brennan further emphasized that the best answers come from the best questions and this is why the above-mentioned questions are being put to Task Force Members before the subject RFP document has been developed so that a strategy can be shaped that can maximize the economic and other benefits that would come from the extraordinary asset the Holyoke HPCC will provide. Additionally, Mr. Brennan noted that a Task Force member had asked at the last meeting if there would be subcommittees, and he stated that one has recently been established to start working on drafting the RFP with eight Task Force members on it but there's room for more if anyone would like to sign up.

Ms. Helene Florio wondered what skill sets are represented on that subcommittee, and Mr. Brennan responded that the subcommittee currently consists of Kathy Anderson, Eric Nakajima, Pat Larkin, Allan Blair, Jim Lavelle, Mike Vedovelli, Richard Henderson and himself. Ms. Florio then asked if there was anyone from workforce development,

and Mr. Brennan replied that at this time, there wasn't any representation in this area, but he emphasized that the subcommittee certainly had room for new members. Mr. Jack Doyle then volunteered to join the subcommittee as did William Ward of the Hampden Regional Employment Board.

Mr. Brennan then asked if there were any other questions, comments or suggestions. Ms. Florio asked about the timeline for this project. Mr. Brennan said we're looking for RFPs to be made public in the spring and noted that by the later part of the spring a consultant or consultant team would likely be engaged. He further noted that the total timeline could span up to 12 months.

Mr. John Mullin observed that he didn't see labor and/or union representation involved on the Task Force and he cautioned that if you don't face labor you will have to eventually. Mr. Brennan noted that this was a good suggestion. Mr. John Laux asked if the Task Force is interested in comments from the general public, and Mr. Brennan responded yes and that these comments could be given to him or Kathy Anderson or submitted using the website. Mr. Laux then wondered what will be the relationship between the consultant that will be hired for the Innovation District project and the redevelopment authority planning process for Holyoke. Ms. Anderson explained that information has been shared with Mr. Martinez-Vela and Mr. Kispert regarding the urban renewal plan for Holyoke so that both plans will be linked and will complement one other.

Councilor Aaron Vega wondered if the HPCC University Consortium would be able to present at a future Task Force meeting. Mr. Nakajima responded that he believed the University Consortium would be happy to attend a future meeting to discuss their project and how to link it to the proposed Innovation District in Holyoke.

Mr. Brennan announced that the next meeting of the Innovation District Design and Development Task Force would be held on Thursday, April 8th at 2:30 p.m. There being no further business to conduct, the Task Co-Chairs adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m. without objection.