



Planning Board

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

William Santos
Chairperson

Monroe County Planning Board Meeting Minutes, March 11, 2021

A meeting of the Monroe County Planning Board was held on March 11, 2021, at 3:00 pm via Zoom.

Members Present: William Santos, MCPB Chair; Orlando Rivera, Mike Wiedemer, Andrew Hollister, and Sam Trapani, citizen members; George Hebert and Joe Morelle Jr., Monroe County Legislators; Mike Garland, Director, Environmental Services.

Alternates Present: Don Crumb (Law, for Deputy County Executive Jeff McCann); Laura Smith (Law, for Chief of Staff Amy Grower); Josette Mangieri (Finance, for Robert Franklin); Virginia Verhagen (Public Safety, for Richard Tantalo)

Planning Staff Present: Rochelle Bell, Pat Gooch, Yixuan Lin

Others Present: Heze Simmons, Blaine Grindle, and Ginny Geer-Mentry, MCC

Bill Santos called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm. Minutes from the February 25, March 11 and March 18 meetings will be reviewed and approved at the March 25 meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS: The process by which the Board will review the proposed CIP was discussed. Instructions for the prioritization of 2022 projects will be issued on March 18.

ACTION ITEMS: None

PRESENTATION: Ginny Geer-Mentry and Blaine Grindle presented the Monroe Community College Master Plan. Ginny reviewed the process for preparing the plan and stated that the guiding question throughout the process was, "What will have the greatest impact on student success?" MCC and their consultant, Smith Group, did extensive outreach with faculty, staff, students, RGRTA, Rochester Business Association, Greentopia and others.

Blaine summarized the results of the study. Proposed projects are laid out on a grid with "Impact on Student Success" on one axis and "Cost" on the other. The recommendations as presented in the Proposed 2022-2027 CIP are as follows:

- Continue “Property Preservation Projects Phase 3”
- Continue “Capital Equipment Replacement – Technology”
- Continue “Services for Students Renovation”
- Add “Expand Virtual Learning Center”
- Add “Improve Safety of Downtown Campus Entrance”
- Modify “ATC – STEM addition”

There were many questions about the amount of deferred maintenance and the slow rate at which it is getting addressed; the most urgent needs are addressed as they arise.

There was a robust discussion about MCC’s current STEM programs and the programs that will be offered as a result of the Advanced Technology Center addition to the MCC Brighton Campus (e.g. diesel technician). This project represents a shift from the previously considered construction of an addition to the Applied Technology Center at the W. Henriette Road campus; the plan is to sell the W. Henrietta Road building and move the entire operation to a new addition to the Brighton Campus. While many on the Board would like to see funding for the ATC project moved up, the County has to consider overall spending -- including an expensive Frontier Field project mandated by MLB – and debt service.

Further discussion ensued about the cost of implementing the master plan, the fact that the state matches every dollar the county contributes, and the economic impact of the college. Enrollment and tuition was discussed, as well as the impact of the pandemic on enrollment and demands for technology. Enrollment is down for the 2020-2021 academic year due to the pandemic; it is anticipated to be 8,000 to 8,500 in 2021-2022.

Board members will be e-mailed the MCC Master Plan and a paper Heze will provide on the economic impact of higher education.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

NEXT MEETING: March 18, 2021, 3:00 p.m., CIP Public Hearing

ADJOURNMENT:

George Hebert made a motion to adjourn, Mike Garland seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

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