



MEMORANDUM

To: Co-Chairs Clyde Burmaster & Michele Iannello
From: Government Affairs Chair Peter McMahon
Re: December, 2009 Meeting
Date: December 11, 2009

Co-Chairs

Hon. Clyde Burmaster
Hon. Michele Iannello

Members

James Allen
John Cappellino
Drew Cerza
Dr. Deborah Curtis
Hon. Paul Dyster
Hon. Wright Ellis
Samuel Ferraro
Renee Filip
Robert Gower
Kathy Konst
David Lacki
Celeste Lawson
Gregory Lewis
Joe McMahon
Hon. Peter McMahon
Hon. Barbara Miller-Williams
Hon. John Mills
Hal Morse
Hon. Jason Murgia
Hon. Sean O'Connor
Christina Orsi
John Percy
Hon. Edward Rath III
Hon. William Ross
Salvatore Sciandra
Peter Wendel
Arlene White
Hon. Maria Whyte

Ad Hoc

Michael Casale
Matthew Enstice
Melinda Rath Sanderson
Lawrence Witul

Executive Director

Tod A. Kniazuk

The Niagara Erie Regional Coalition Government Affairs Subcommittee met December 3, 2009 at the Niagara County Center for Economic Development. Present for the meeting were subcommittee members Ellis and Wendel.

Niagara Erie Regional Coalition:

The subcommittee discussed the state of the Niagara Erie Regional Coalition and brainstormed a bit as to ensuring it stays strong in 2010 and beyond.

The subcommittee suggested that – following the appointment of the co-chairs in 2010 – a cross section of members be convened to review the 2006 strategic plan and use it as a base for discussing any revisions to the organization’s mission, activities, and membership.

For instance, over the years two subcommittees have been dropped, though the issues discussed in them have been taken up by the remaining committees. Currently, Government Affairs has a small membership and, as a result of weak attendance, doesn’t have much on the table to discuss. Transportation, which was merged into Economic Development, still has many issues prominent in our work.

Other areas such as binational issues, seem to be emerging as topics of interest for the Coalition, and still others such as education are discussed at times. Further, if we expand or revise what we’re working on, it may be a source of new members.

Finally, in the past we've had large issues or projects like the Framework for Regional Growth, Regional Economic Development Strategy, or Economic Impact of Arts and Culture report to rally around; we need to determine what our next "big thing" is, while still working on short-term "wins" as well.

Other Topics:

Other topics discussed included the Erie County budget, New York State deficit, and municipal board downsizing.