McKownville: A Vision - Notes from MIA General Meeting - 2/9/06

Transportation

Pedestrian Traffic

Safety Concerns

- *Placement of a sidewalk around cemetery area on Fuller Road - needs imaginative solution
- *Make Schoolhouse/Western Ave. intersection passable and safe
- *Improve UAlbany & Western Ave intersection
- *Improve McKown Road/Norwood & Western Ave
- *Improve Fuller Road & Western Ave
- *Provide for bicycle safety

Walkways

- *Pedestrian Bridge crossing Western Ave. from Stuyvesant to south side of Western Ave.
- *Path around pond at Stuyvesant Plaza
- *Paths from CESTM to Stuyvesant Plaza
- *Carriageways
- *Connection to SUNY Purple Path

Sidewalks

- *New and improved sidewalks on Western Ave
- *Raised sidewalks when crossing streets and parking areas
- *Provide walkways from businesses to street sidewalks
- *Improve snow removal/winter maintenance
- *Walkway on commercial property needs to be maintained year round - not used as snow dump
- *Provide ability to walk to Westmere

Street lamps

- *To provide for pedestrian safety especially on Fuller Road - elegant and homey
- *Keep lights to prescribed height
- *Use Pine Hills as model for human scale and homey ambiance
- *Western Ave. in Pine Hills as model for planting and beautification

Auto Traffic

- *Better access to Interstate highways to relieve pressure on Western Ave.
- *Traffic constriction calming needed on Western Ave
- *Western Ave design should allow on street parking as traffic calmer (as seen on Central Ave. in Schenectady)

Mass Transportation

- *Better bus service
- *Trolley Service from Stuyvesant to CESTM
- *Better North/South connections between Central
 Ave and Western Ave. and New Scotland Ave

Parking

- *Common parking area/ attractive maintenance/plantings and green space
- *Sufficient parking for all new and renovated structures

Commercial Development

- *Extend residential "look" of neighborhood to commercial establishments
- *Give a human size, scale, and look like a home to commercial property
- *Insist on adequate parking & sidewalks (both along street and to street)
- *Retail development with housing (if adequate parking is provided)
- *Beautification and maintenance of properties is good for business
- *Commercial suggestions:

Commerce to serve area residents/ such as Stewart's at Russell Road

*Development/Redevelopment of acreage behind Best Western as mixed us Retail/Residential

Governmental Concerns

- *Enforcement of rules in area parks
- *Zoning concerns: better enforcement of existing ordinances and limiting issuance of Special Use Permits and Variances
- *Commercial development: Keep it consistent -- Resist crazyquilt development
- *Create mixed use zoning where appropriate
- *Guilderland needs a town architect to establish an architectural style or standard for Western Ave. Corridor
- *Provide incentives to improve property in ways that benefit owner and community (Henry George)
- *Provide enforcement of bike lane laws Stop cars from using them / See MCS.
- *Need coordination of McKownville concerns that are outside the scope of the Town of Guilderland

Such as issues with:

Harriman Campus redevelopment General issues with:

> City of Albany Albany County New York State UAlbany Thruway Authority

Residential Issues

*More community areas are needed

*Increase number of pedestrian destinations within neighborhood public space, senior center, community center, childcare, daycare and more public gathering places a non-alcoholic lounge for families - near McKown/Western

*Recreation

More parks

Connect neighborhoods to Rensselaer Lake/6 mile

Tie parks together with paths

Create walking destinations for kids

*Housing

Senior housing/elegant/multiple use

Multi-family housing on main streets

Multi-family dwellings will need adequate parking perhaps underground

Mixed use residential/commercial with adequate parking

*Look to WIFI in McKownville

*Getting the news out

How to get more neighbors attending meetings

How to generate interest and solicit contributions

Publicity

Newsletter?

Times Union/Events and Community meetings

Free publications/ penny savers

Town Website

800 flyers distributed for meetings

Keep to regular meeting schedule

Esthetic Issues

*Gateway concept

Pedestrian Island/Welcome to Guilderland

At Route 20 and entrance to UAlbany School House Road and Western Ave/ 87

Flowers

Sign

*Maintain and care for existing trees

*Replace dead/sick trees with appropriate type of