

TWELVE-MONTH STATUS REPORT ON SMART GROWTH AMERICA WORKSHOPS

FORT PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA

1. **Focus your revitalization efforts.** Fort Pierre will celebrate its 200th anniversary in 2017. The upcoming Bicentennial celebration has focused revitalization efforts.
 - a. The Fort Pierre Development continued “fix up, clean up, paint up” matching grants with an emphasis on building exteriors in the most visible parts of town, the entrances and downtown.
 - b. The city’s 20-year Comprehensive Plan was finalized and approved by City Council action, laying the groundwork for considered and planned growth.
 - c. A \$1.4 million renovation of the City Community Center will include new “frontier town” façade.
 - d. Town residents built and donated a fort structure which will serve as a picnic and play area.
 - e. A “historic walking park” containing historic signs, sculptures, etc. has been designed to encourage visitors to walk between a restored historic railroad depot museum and the new fort.

2. **Engage a consultant to develop a historic/cultural marketing plan.** Continued our contract with Maxwell Consulting to lead the implementation of the strategic plan adopted by Fort Pierre Tourism & Promotion Council.
 - a. A web site for Fort Pierre Tourism was launched, containing a special link for Bicentennial events.
 - b. Signage/wayfinding project. The goal to provide an “easy button” for visitors to locate sites and attractions led to the design and implementation of 23 attractive signs which will be located at the city’s entrances and around town.
 - c. Organized and promoted by the Tourism Council, and led by Verendrye Museum board members, ten guided Fort Pierre History Driving Tours were conducted. We look forward to expanding the program next year.
 - d. A project to design and place sculptures of historic figures significant to Fort Pierre has been announced. The first figure, that of Pierre Chouteau, the French furtrader for whom the city is named, is expected to be completed in time for the Bicentennial celebration in September.

3. **Audit zoning ordinances to develop standards and incentives for good urban design.**
 - a. Teton Island Business Park, owned and developed by the City, is in the process of bylaws & restrictive covenants revision. A committee of business owners, development and city officials are involved in the process.
 - b. New ordinances on abandoned, vacant buildings are being reviewed by the Planning & Zoning Commission, to be presented to the City Council for approval.
 - c. A Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district for future planning and development of downtown and central Fort Pierre is in the works. The boundaries have been adopted by the City Council; work has yet to begin on the plan.

4. Fund infrastructure improvements.

- a. “Casey Tibbs Turnout”, a large parking area on the main highway through the city, was improved this summer with updated utilities and surface.
- b. The downtown district, Main and Deadwood Streets, was resurfaced this summer.
- c. Continued improvement of our largest entertainment venues: Stanley County Fairgrounds and Expo Building (hockey arena).

5. Leverage the waterfront.

- a. We are investigating allowable uses of Corps of Engineers owned properties and available funding to develop boat ramp facilities, parking, public restrooms.
- b. An exciting private venture, an 80 foot, 130 passenger paddleboat, will have its home port in Fort Pierre, offering dinner excursions, historic tours, and other recreational opportunities.

6. Make better use of events – whether existing or newly created – to create excitement and draw people – both residents and visitors.

- a. The city’s Bicentennial year will kick off on New Year’s Eve with a concert, family skating, bullriding, and fireworks. Events during the year will be promoted as Bicentennial activities, with a culmination of celebrations scheduled for a three-day weekend in September, coinciding with two established events, Dakota Western Heritage Festival and a Family Ranch Rodeo.
- b. Financial support and assistance in marketing of special events (rodeos, concerts, festivals)
- c. Coordinated calendar of events
- d. City created a budget line item to fund promotional activities

7. Maintain ongoing dialogue among stockholders. The Mayor continues to be in regular contact with the school, county, museum board, historic preservation groups, economic development corporation, tourism and promotion council, service clubs, and residents through frequent meetings, a quarterly newsletter, a monthly and a weekly live radio program, and various speaking opportunities.

8. Develop/enhance regional partnerships. Mayor Hanson meets regularly with Pierre’s Mayor Gill, State of SD agency administrators, the Lieutenant Governor, area legislators, and others. She serves on the governing board of the Central SD Enhancement District and participates in SD Municipal League conferences to enhance networking opportunities.

- a. Continue to expand our partnership with Grow South Dakota as a resource for housing and workforce development
- b. Continue to be very involved with the Governor’s Workforce Development initiative