

10/15/2020 Danville Casino Revenue Reinvestment Meeting Notes and Attendee Questions:

What do you like about Danville? What could the City do better?

- Using historic buildings better
- There is an extreme need for resources and activities for the youth. They have nothing to do or nowhere to go there.
- What I like: walkability, historic downtown, trails,
- I understand that the white mill may be turned into a resort area. I am not hearing anything planned for the northside of Danville. If attention to the Northside was the same as the southside the crime rate in that area would substantially drop as well.
- Please have plan to make improvements all over the city. I heard many people afraid that only particular areas will get improvements
- The bight in Danville is really bad. There are derelict houses and properties everywhere. All over the city vacant yards are full of high weeds and grass. These run-down properties are a magnet for criminal activity. Casino money can help clean these
- The trailers that are being used as classrooms for schools need to be done away with. The casino money should be used to build onto the schools. The trailers look bad.
- The police department desperately need a lot more officers, especially patrol officers. Many times, there are only 6-8 patrol officers on the street for the entire city.
- These car repair shops with lots full of torn up vehicles visible by the public make the city look really bad. The ordinances need to be changed to have these graveyard lots completely shielded from public view.
- The city streets are also full of abandoned vehicles, trailers, campers and boats that are left on the street need to be removed this makes the city look terrible and are violating the city ordinances but are not being removed by Code Enforcement. There are also hundreds or maybe well over a thousand on private property as well.
- A local historic preservation organization for Danville/Pittsylvania County. A local preservation organization centered on improving Danville's communities through the educational, social, economic and environmental benefits of historic preservation.

Chat:

from SueEllen Lawton to all panelists: 6:52 PM: I support the funds going for education most strongly but a couple of areas that I haven't seen discussed is: 1) moving utility wiring either underground or run behind allies. Danville has the messiest overhead wiring than I've ever seen.

from SueEllen Lawton to all panelists: 6:53 PM: I most like the River District development.

from Mary Jere Hairston to all panelists: 6:54 PM: I love the home feeling if Danville the small town always feels like home

from Mary Jere Hairston to all panelists: 6:55 PM: We are missing more jobs with competitive pay.

from Kenneth Lewis to all panelists: 6:55 PM Quality community centers for youth

from SueEllen Lawton to all panelists: 6:55 PM: Another item is hiring a City Arborist. might seem trite, but it makes an ENORMOUS difference in lowering overall utilities and each mature tree adds \$20K of property value to a home.

from Danielle Scott to all panelists: 6:56 PM: Questions from my private chat: Is there an interest to partner with the school division? Specifically, Schoolfield Elementary?

from Danielle Scott to all panelists: 6:56 PM: Will the downtown get revamped?

from Tom Dalton to all panelists: 6:56 PM: Improve the conditions of our schools.

from Danielle Scott to all panelists: 6:57 PM: Will the casino money be used to improve the look of Danville and make it more attractive? The river walk is nice, but it has no cafes and such.

from SueEllen Lawton to all panelists: 6:59 PM: Would also love to see more Arts & Culture development.

from Tom Dalton to all panelists: 6:59 PM: Free city-wide high speed Wi-Fi network so our students will be better able to learn access the internet and participate in virtual learning.

from Danielle Scott to all panelists: 7:01 PM: We have another question from Gus who I will acknowledge then keep moving: Maybe I missed it but since pari-mutuel passed in 2019 has Rosie's confirmed if they're coming if the referendum fails?

- Rosie's is unlikely to come to Danville if the referendum passes, because they would have to compete against a much larger casino.

Tourism Question and Open Discussion:

Ken: Does it make sense for us to invest in new tourism assets to give people more reasons to come to Danville?

Q&A: Absolutely! Especially to draw the younger urban community.

from Jonathan Hackworth to all panelists: 7:42 PM: I'd suggest maybe considering including a family water park as part of hotel development on the site. Closest water park is Greensboro NC but having an interior style water park like at Great Wolf would pull ppl year-round.

Eric Tickle - facebook: Yes. See "Scott's Addition" in Richmond. (Note on "Scott's Addition" from me - it is a fast-growing area in Richmond, home to 13 cideries/breweries, etc)

Q&A: Danville needs to get better shopping. Outlet possibly. Please consider some form of shopping. All family member want be visiting the casino.

- The City has had studies done; population size was a barrier to potential retail. More traffic will attract more companies to the region.

Q&A: Great Wolf Lodge draws tourism all year around. By 2023 we should be in a climate we're this would be a great attraction. If not Great Wolf something similar

from Jonathan Hackworth to all panelists: 7:44 PM: Maybe consider speaking with Caesars to include a water feature around the smokestacks like what is at The Island in Pigeon Forge. It's set to music.

Could Amtrak extend its track to drop people off right in front of the casino?

- That could be possible but is a question for Amtrak, there could also be shuttles from the train station to the casino.

Is the city creating a new zoning category for this casino?

- The planning director is going to handle that. Renderings show that the hotel is the tallest structure, casino is one floor, entertainment venue is a few floors. Issues of easements and other zoning concerns will be handled by planning director.

Do we expect the entertainment center to be a draw in addition to the casino? (2500 seat entertainment venue)

- Having a venue is a big part of the reason the City selected Caesars, they are a top entertainment booker which is a great asset. Many entertainers wouldn't come to Danville without a venue like the one planned.

Are we projecting the airport will get significant busy? I would like to know what the money set aside for the airport would be used to do at the airport.

- There is the possibility of airport investments with funding matches to stretch the City's investment. The regional airport is not going to become

Will the community college have classes for hospitality for local residence that will not be able to attend Averett?

- The City understands that Averett is a private college and that its hospitalist program may be outside the budgets of many residents. The community college should have hospitality training programming as well.

Would Rosie's be located at the White Mill?

- Rosie's may not open in Danville if the referendum passes, but if they were to open it is unlikely they would move into the White Mill site.

Danville Town Hall: Facebook Live Commentary

Introduction and Welcome Message:

River City TV: Good evening everyone.

River City TV: The presentation will begin shortly

River City TV: Please take the time to complete the following survey

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/investing_in_Danville

Gordon Bartholomew: Good evening

Cary Wright: Let's make a greenway for bikes and pedestrians!!

Mary Gaines: Good evening

Investing in Danville: Overview and Guiding Principles

Mary Barnes: Curbs for the Almagro community and a new drainage system for the Five Forks area.

Mary Gaines: Offsetting high utility bills!

River City TV: Comments that are given on our Facebook page tonight will be given to the group.

Michael Newman: Day reporting center — cut incarceration for lower nonviolent convictions / daily reporting combined with drug screening / drug counseling / job training / job placement / life skill training —

Deborah Miller-McKague: Put wall up on both sides of railroad tracks from NC to Schoolfield site

River City TV: Again, if you are not part of the WebEx forum feel free to submit ideas and suggestions on this feed. The group is monitoring it.

Michelle Peckinpaugh: https://www.sunherald.com/news/business/casino-gambling/article246472335.html?fbclid=IwAR0zgRnLpHVEkVs_izX_HK4EMlq4d4JLNGZ1rC_-xzw-Tkw00Gcfq-DiBxQ (Note: this timely article published yesterday (“**New details released on \$1.2B casino resort coming to Biloxi, including 2,500 jobs**”) that this citizen posted references economic growth that will result from a new casino coming to Biloxi.

Craig Setliff: so I understand part of money will used to clean and put new people in charge our city such fire dept and police all forms of the city leadership

Craig Setliff: will we get more police man on the street?

Michelle Hall Peckinpaugh: I can't wait for this Casino to come. Excited for Danville...We don't even have a Caesars here...This is Big

Discussion: What do you like most about Danville / what is missing in Danville?

Valerie Warner: I am a native. I moved back 2 years ago after living in DC for 25 years. I love the small town feel and the people of Danville

Deborah Miller-McKague: Modernize all city public schools; provide students with laptops or iPad. Increase teachers pay and provide what teachers need to bring to classroom

Joyce Tate: Always about downtown

Joyce Tate: All new leadership

Mary Gaines: More quality AFFORDABLE housing!

Valerie Warner: Subsidize utilities because the high costs negatively affect most citizens of the citizen especially senior citizens

Eric Tickle (in response to Valerie Warner): I second this. Bring competition for utility options (I.e Dominion, solar, Etc.)

Valerie Warner (in response to Eric Tickle): Yes that's key to bringing the prices down

Valerie Warner: Job training so our youth can get jobs in the casino

Deborah Miller-McKague: Revitalize West Main Street from NC to Schoolfield site.

Potential Investments for Danville

Mary Gaines: Salaries decent for here! (Note: in reference to conversation about jobs coming to Danville through casino.)

MJ LovelsLove: Revitalize ALMAGRO at the very least put sidewalks in the community (Note: article on lack of sidewalks, etc. in Almagro

https://godanriver.com/news/local/lacking-sidewalks-and-curbs-almagro-residents-want-upgrades-to-neighborhood/article_b845afb5-f4a5-5d64-8572-306432b367ea.html)

John Hartness: It would be nice if they could use a percentage to help with the Southside neighborhood roads. I'm all for this casino and will be voting yes.

Mary Gaines: Well, you'd need to remove all of these Confederate flags! They're NOT inviting!

Bruce Hudson (in response to Mary Gaines): You understand they are on private property, don't you?

Eric Tickle: Dedication of funds towards the airport to expand the overall area and make it to where we have the ability to have commercial airlines to fly in and out here. Closest airports to us are GSO and RDU. This would be a great opportunity to grow the city if we have this ability.

Discussion: Do you feel that there is anything missing from the previously listed investment areas? What does Danville need to succeed?

Mary Gaines: You speak about tourism and I mentioned that flag and it was ignored! However, it IS not inviting to people who appreciate better!

Mary Gaines (in response to Ken's discussion): My point exactly! I do understand!

Valerie Warner (in response to Mary Gaines *after* the Town Hall): I would be curious to find out how Caesar's casino feels about relocating people here, possibly people of diverse ethnicities, with a Confederate flag at every entrance to the city.

Bruce Hudson (in response to Valerie Warner *after* the Town Hall): What about the people who like seeing the Confederate flag? If you want to be inclusive, should their opinions be considered or just dismissed?

Valerie Warner (in response to Bruce Hudson *after* the Town Hall): This a symbol of a war that your side lost. I'm not going to have a debate with you about that because obviously you still hold to something that symbolizes hate and prejudice. Your flag doesn't bother me, I know what it is and what it stands for but let me be clear, this city will be judged and judged harshly by the presence of those flags and it could result in a loss of business and revenue.

Discussion: How do we make sure funds are spent equitably? Do you have any questions or concerns that have not been addressed in the presentation?

Eric Tickle: Couple of things. First, can you confirm that no matter which way the vote goes... we will still be getting a large casino (I.e Rosie's instead of Caesars) Secondly, with the growth of the River District, how are we going to address issues with a growing need of parking? Parking decks? That'd be great!

Eric Tickle: Traffic survey may be needed at the intersection of Park Ave. and Westover Dr. or the intersection of Piedmont Pl. and Westover to possibly add traffic lights. Many accidents have occurred at these locations in the past.

Eric Tickle (in response to Ken's question about tourism): Yes. See "Scott's Addition" in Richmond. (Note: website for Scott's Addition, a fast-growing area of Richmond: <https://www.scottsaddition.com/about-scotts-addition/>)

Mary Gaines: Good idea for smoke stacks

Final Thoughts or Comments:

Michael Blair: Look we need a better Airport with commercial flights

Michael Blair: Like united airlines or Delta

Michael Blair: Instead of going to Greensboro NC

Bruce Hudson (in response to Michael Blair): Unlikely any airline would come here.

Mary Gaines: GREAT!

Mary Gaines: AWESOME!

Mary Gaines: THX

River City TV: Again, we invite everyone who has participated today to complete the online survey at the following link. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/investing_in_Danville

River City TV: Thank you to everyone who joined us tonight!