

**May 18 Meeting Summary**  
**Government/Infrastructure Pillar**  
**Go Forward Pine Bluff**

The May 18<sup>th</sup> 2016 work session of the Government/Infrastructure Pillar of the Go Forward Pine Bluff Initiative was held at STEM center at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB). Pillar members discussed the following topics:

**Innovation Hub Visit**

- Adaptable parts that would work for Pine Bluff – Opportunity for Pine Bluff and UAPB to develop a meaningful partnership.
- Allows for thinking outside the box.
- Pillar members who went to the Innovation Hub at North Little Rock were very impressed by the professionalism of the staff, their structure, their flexible adaptability, and their revenue stream through grants and program membership.
- It was very impressive how machines/technology/engineers & other expertise is volunteered or lent to the HUB.
- *Recommendation should be that an Innovation Hub be created in downtown Pine Bluff at the site of the Arts & Science Museum, UAPB Incubator, and the Auto Parts store. SEARK and the public schools should be a partner. An alternate site should be the Library. The focus of the PB Innovation Hub should be on Aquaculture, Railroads, Agribusiness, Food Packaging, and Silviculture.*

**Repurposing of downtown/central city of PB**

- Focusing on the core of downtown.
- Single Family affordable housing.
- Nucleus of consumers with redevelopment and revitalization will bring commercial support such as gas stations, grocery store, coffee shops, deli, etc.
- Increase sales and property tax.
- Responsible:  
Land Bank, Relyance Bank, Simmons First, TBD.

- Action Steps:  
Vet potential developers from tax records.  
Explore all financing options.
- Timeframe:  
18 months.

### Develop Land Bank

- Action Step:  
Pull statutes of states that have Land Banks.
- Action Step:  
Identify year that Land Bank in Arkansas was attempted.  
Review Little Rock structure and Mississippi County.
- Benefit:  
Attracting business.  
Take land that are a negative for the city and turn it into a positive property.  
Takes the city out of immediate responsibility for that property.
- Responsible:  
Non-profit board?  
Mayor, Judge, Community Campaign.
- Resources:  
TBD, City transferring liens that city has not collected on.
- Timetable: Hurry Up.

### Deannexation

- Do not deannex.
- Do not annex.
- Repurpose.

## Downtown Pine Bluff

- Support and complete streetscape plans.
- Utilities in prior to...& underground access without tearing up streets.
- Specific area...x block by x block by x block and x block.
- Ensure historic district status.
- Bank commitment to support a commitment to invest.

## UAPB – Downtown

- Repurposing the 1976 Convention Center – 165,000 square feet.
- Convention Center could possibly become a Community Center.
- Convention Center and Hotel could become a School of Hospitality Management at UAPB.

---

## TOPICS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AT THE JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

---

- The relationship between UAPB and the community...Needs to be an asset for both...how to make that happen?  
  
...Invite Jackson State University President to be guest speaker...check with Carla to see proper protocol for invitation.
- Broadband Internet needs to be excellent for PB and Jefferson County.  
...Invite Charles Colen, IT director at UAPB to address.
- Need to address current and needed infrastructure for PB Police, Fire, and Emergency Management, Park & Recreation, etc.  
...Obtaining this information from the PB.
- Further discuss recommendation possibility to take pillars and other material of value from Pines Hotel and make it a centerpiece for a city park on the hotel site.  
...once direction is decided, have Youngquist contact Steve Luoni from the UofA Center for Community Design to conduct a community charette.