

**THE HISTORIC TRIANGLE COLLABORATIVE**  
8:00 to 11:00 a.m. November 21, 2016  
Alliance Conference Room, 421 N. Boundary St.

**DISCUSSION TOPICS**

**Members present:**

Marvin Collins, David Cromwell, Phil Emerson, Paul Freiling, Ruth Larson, Neil Morgan, Mitchell Reiss, Taylor Reveley, Karen Riordan, Jeff Wassmer. Sandy Wanner and Susan Dickerson also attended. Facilitator John McLaughlin also attended.

**Member not present:**

Bryan Hill

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**Discussion**

Sandy opened the meeting and introduced the HTC Retreat Facilitator John McLaughlin.

John walked the members through an evaluation of the HTC's mission, both its strengths and weaknesses. The majority felt the mission was strong but there was tension in the mission between specificity of the group's goals and its broadness. The group also concluded that the group's strengths were mutual support of each other, the candor of the group as a whole and its ability to react opportunistically. Its weaknesses are determining how the group works regionally, lack of measurements for its work, and that who shows up to meetings drives agendas.

Jeff iterated that he wasn't sure if the group was supposed to go out and find a problem to solve or whether a problem comes to the group to solve.

John indicated that he was hearing the group state that there is a measurement and accountability concern along with a concern over the how problems get to the group. Sandy did indicate that he has reached out to the membership on a monthly basis for agenda items.

Jeff said Mitchell had spent a few minutes explaining activities within his organization, all of which he found extremely helpful. He suggested meeting every other month and going around the room talking about each entity's most significant agenda items, then he felt sure one or two items of cross interest would pop up. Karen also suggested reviewing all the legislative agendas to find that crossover interest. She also liked the idea of meeting once a quarter or every other month.

Phil said he felt the discussion lacked an element of some longer-term strategies. The area's counterparts likely had an ongoing 10-year plan, and that the group needed to consider short-term and long-terms goals.

The group agreed to review each organization's legislative agendas and find some area of overlap that the group could come together and galvanize itself over one or two issues at the next meeting.

Neil discussed the Greater Williamsburg Partnership and said it had an unusual structure in that no City or County Administrative Officers or elected officials were involved in its governance. He said the GWP needed to be better integrated with the HTC or have some other governance. Marvin said he had seen a group similar to the GWP have an executive board not too unlike the makeup of the HTC. He asked the group if it wanted to be the GWP board and whether it wanted to add to its membership.

Taylor said the group should not want to do that. The HTC wants to be a catalyst to move others into action. Karen said the HTC could be a helpful adviser, that the GWP was unable to do a deep dive into its mission and that the group could use assistance from the HTC.

Neil said he would like the HTC to meet with less frequency but for a longer period of time. The group agreed to meet every other month for two hours and to make the legislative priorities the group's next agenda item. The group will meet as planned in December and will meet next for a two-hour meeting in February.

Karen brought up the HTC's chair position and the HTC's budget. She indicated she was uncomfortable with the current status quo of the budget. She indicated that the organization had about \$62,000 in its budget, and that there was no set agenda for those funds. Sandy said he was more than happy to relinquish the chair position, and provided some history of the position. In the past, members did not want one organization owning the HTC's responsibilities and that the group needed to be viewed and seen as independent of any one organization. Ruth indicated that she did not know any of the intricacies of the HTC's financials or how much time staff provided dedicated to HTC work. Phil said overall, the membership has been pretty lethargic in providing agenda items and that members had not placed any energy into coming up with agenda items.

The group agreed to discuss each member's legislative priorities and to review the HTC's organizational funding and staffing.

**Next Meetings:**

December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting – York County

February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting -- TBA