

Buffalo & Erie County Greenway Fund Standing Committee

City of Buffalo • Erie County • Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy • New York Power Authority

Minutes of the March 2, 2017 Meeting

Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, 726 Exchange Street, Suite 525 Buffalo, NY

The meeting followed the agenda and was opened by Chairman Alan J. Bozer.

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.
2. Roll Call and Remarks:
Members in Attendance: Alan J. Bozer, Thomas R. Hersey, Jr., Brendan R. Mehaffy and Carol Jasen Sampson.
3. Public Comment (reserved for agenda items only) - NONE
4. Meeting Minutes
Motion to adopt the meeting minutes of April 8, 2016. Moved by Thomas Hershey, Second by Brendan Mehaffy.
Approved 4-0.
5. 2015 Annual Report
Motion to adopt the 2015 Annual Report. Moved by Brendan Mehaffy, Second by Thomas Hershey.
Approved 4-0.
6. Signage
Vice-Chairman Hershey provided an overview of the proposed Buffalo and Erie County Greenway Fund temporary placement of funding acknowledgement signage during the construction period of the awarded grant project. A sample sign was presented. Upon project completion, the sign will be returned to an Erie County designated facility. Ten (10) signs will be produced by the County of Erie Signage Department at a cost estimated at \$35 (per sign) and all signs will be the property of the Greenway Committee.

Motion to adopt signage which will be placed at the construction site of a project that was awarded grant funding by the Buffalo & Erie County Greenway Fund Standing Committee, "Project Funded with The Buffalo and Erie County Greenway Fund."

Moved by Brendan Mehaffy, Second by Thomas Hershey.
Approved 4-0.
7. Public Presentations of Submitted Project Applications for 2016 Grant Cycle
Chairman Bozer presented an overview of the Buffalo & Erie County Greenway Fund Standing Committee and acknowledged that the Committee has a difficult task before them with the nine new applicant requests totaling \$2,755,742. The Committee has \$2 million of Greenway funds less \$500,000 for two projects that were multi-yearred, leaving \$1.5 million available for this this round of applicants.

The order of the nine presentations followed the listing in the agenda and Committee members followed up with question(s) & answer(s).

Public Presentations of Submitted Applications for 2016 Grant Cycle:

1) **Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park: Circle of Heroes Memorial**

Donald Alessi discussed the Naval Park application is requesting a total of \$420,000 to be disbursed over the period of three years beginning in 2017 -- Year 1: \$170,000, Year 2: \$130,000, Year 3: \$120,000.

The Circle of Heroes project is intended to honor military heroes from Buffalo and Western New York. The Circle of Heroes is meant to both educate and inspire visitors to the Naval Park and satisfies many of the Greenway's goals including its cultural, heritage, educational and interpretive objectives. The proposed site is on the Buffalo waterfront (Canalside) and will enable visitors to experience a greater appreciation for our scenic and natural resources. This project is anticipated to improve the Park's excellent standing as an educational facility that attracts thousands of visitors to Buffalo.

The Circle of Heroes project is a work in progress with some details still being developed. Applicant indicates intention to submit an application to the Buffalo Arts for its consideration.

2) **Buffalo Lighthouse Association: South Buffalo Lighthouse Restoration & Reuse Project-Phase II**

Michael Vogel discussed the Lighthouse Association application is requesting a total of \$129,300 for various items including general site work and lighthouse lantern room restoration. No funds received from the Greenway request will be used to defray any existing financial obligations or any previous operations or maintenance costs. Matching funding efforts will include a corporate donation effort now being planned by the Association's South Buffalo project team, as well as in-kind support from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (owner agency for the breakwater system). In addition, project work started in 2016 quickly drew offers of materials and work contributions, including railing materials and professional underwater inspection services, that are expected to continue. The Erie Canal Harbor Development Corp., provided some program funding in 2016 as well. Restoration and reuse of the South Buffalo Lighthouse will be a highly visible statement regarding the rebirth of the Buffalo Harbor waterfront and preserves a cultural artifact that represents a key period of regional history and impacting public appreciation of shoreline corridor heritage.

3) **Buffalo Lighthouse Association: Lighthouse Point Site Enhancement & Bike Path Enhancement -Phase II**

Michael Vogel discussed The Lighthouse Association application is requesting \$116,135 for the site enhancement and bike path project. This includes continuation of bike pathway strengthening and replacement, electrical and lighting replacement services, administrative/project management and site insurance.

The project location is Lighthouse Point, at the mouth of the Buffalo River across from the Erie Basin Marina. The project seeks to enhance site safety and aesthetics and provide a better visitor experience at a key local and waterfront cultural attraction that is listed on the National Register. It was determined that complete replacement offered the best plan for pathway strength and longevity and the Lighthouse Association remains ready to start the project immediately after the winter season. The application seeks funding for an additional

350 feet of pathway replacement, which would complete one entire section from the entranceway to the angle where the path turns to parallel the 1820s seawall.

The site is leased by the Buffalo Lighthouse Association Inc. from the Coast Guard with the standard Coast Guard lease period of 10 years. Coast Guard licenses or leases for the site have been maintained by the Association since 1985, and the current lease extends until October 2023 with renewal for an expansion of the leased property expected before then.

4) **Buffalo Museum of Science: Visitor Center Improvements- Phase 2**

Marisa Wigglesworth discussed the total project cost is budgeted for \$357,450. The BECGSC 2014 award of \$150,000 combined with the current application request of \$207,450 will enable completion of exterior renovations to the Visitor Center.

Additional information was requested by the Committee with respect to their application request; a copy of the Tifft Environmental Education Program.

5) **Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy: Cazenovia Park Shoreline & Trails Rehabilitation – Phase 3**

Brian Dold and Greg Robinson discussed the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy application is requesting construction funds totaling \$537,000 to support Cazenovia Creek Shoreline Stabilization and associated services.

6) **City of Buffalo: LaSalle Park Design and Waterfront Access**

Andy Rabb discussed the City of Buffalo application is requesting \$500,000 to construct the first phase of improvements at LaSalle Park. The purpose of this project is to implement the first phase of waterfront access improvements, increasing site access, improving visitor experience and interpretive signage, roadway and parking alternatives, landscape and edge habitat improvements, and repurposing of existing sea plane ramp. Implementation of this project will now also allow for a safe and clean environment for people to enjoy a passive setting with friends and family. LaSalle Park is owned by the City of Buffalo and maintained by the Buffalo Division of Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Rabb provided the Committee members a revised project budget and also a map that depicts the LaSalle Park Seawall Condition Assessment (USACE Report- Feb 2014). The revised budget includes administrative costs of \$65,000 within the \$500,000 request.

7) **Explore & More children's museum: Feel the Falls in the Moving Water Educational Play Zone**

Nancy Montone discussed the Explore & More application is requesting \$648,000 for the *Feel the Falls* exhibit and includes support for planning, construction and installation.

Explore & More is a nonprofit and manages the museum. With water as the centerpiece of the new museum, Explore & More at Canalside intends to boost interest in, and appreciation of, the Niagara River and the Greenway as a world-class corridor.

Additional information was requested by the Committee with respect to their application request; a copy of the Niagara River Greenway Commission Letter of Consistency and also a cash flow for the \$648,000 greenway request.

Vice-Chairman Mehaffy stated that his wife sits on the Explore & More Board of Directors.

8) **Town of Grand Island: Bicentennial Park-Scenic Woods Phase I & IA**

Nathan McMurray discussed the Town of Grand Island's application indicates the cost estimate for Phase I and IA totals \$395,268. A request for \$117,860 for specific components of Phases I and IA of the Scenic Woods development project has been made for Greenway funds. Located on land with direct access to the Niagara River, the fully completed project for Scenic Woods in Bicentennial Park will add more than five miles of nature and recreational trails. It will add new resources to the Niagara River Greenway System,

furthering a continuous network of trails and public access points along the Niagara River. This project will be fully accessible to all members of the public. Phases I and IA focus on development of a parking area and trailhead in the wetland area at the western end of the site.

9) **Town of Tonawanda: Tonawanda Rail Trail Enhancement**

Joseph Emminger and James Jones discussed the Town of Tonawanda application is seeking \$330,000 from the Buffalo and Erie County Greenway Fund. Deliverables for this project include installation of public art and better access to the 3.9 mile trail from 12 intersections along it. Federal wetlands have been identified at various locations along the corridor adjacent to the trail where native plant selection and their design and care for sustainability will be required. The project will greatly enhance the scenic quality and natural environment adjacent to the trail which bisects the community.

8. **Other Business-**

Motion to approve payment for the fee for current services in the amount of \$4,280.00 to Wilmington Trust, designated Trustee of the Buffalo and Erie County Greenway Funds.

Moved by Thomas Hershey, Second by Brendan Mehaffy.

Approved 4-0.

Motion for the Selection of Chairman, Vice-Chairman(s) and Secretary for 2017-2018:

- Alan J. Bozer, Chairman
- Brendan R. Mehaffy, Vice-Chairman
- Thomas R. Hersey, Jr., Vice-Chairman
- Carol Jasen Sampson, Secretary

Moved by Brendan Mehaffy, Second by Thomas Hershey.

Approved 4-0.

9. **Next Meeting**

Chairman Bozer stated that the next Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 2017, 4:30 PM, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo 726 Exchange Street, Suite 525 Buffalo, NY and the Announcements of Awards will be presented.

10. A motion to adjourn was made by Brendan Mehaffy, Second by Thomas Hershey.

Meeting adjourned 5:34 PM.