

Buffalo & Erie County Greenway Fund Standing Committee

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

Minutes of the February 28, 2018 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, James Newman (Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy alternate) Thomas R. Hersey, Jr., Brendan R. Mehaffy, Jason Paananen (City of Buffalo alternate) and Carol Jasen Sampson.
3. Meeting Minutes
Motion to adopt the meeting minutes of December 19, 2017. Moved by Thomas Hershey, Second by Jason Paananen.
Approved 4-0.
4. 2017 Annual Report
Motion to adopt the 2017 Annual Report. Moved by Thomas Hershey, Second by Jason Paananen.
Approved 4-0.
5. Public Comment (reserved for agenda items only) – NONE

Due to the time constraints of attending Committee alternates, Chairman Bozer adjusted the agenda order of the project presentations. Chairman Bozer recused himself from the Explore & More application and James Newman his alternate was present at view that presentation. In addition, due to a conflict, Brendan R. Mehaffy recused himself and his alternate Jason Paananen was present to view the Explore & More presentation.

6. Public Presentations of Submitted Project Applications for 2017 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 eleven new applicant requests totaling over \$4 million and the Committee having \$2 million of Greenway funds available for this this round of applicants.
The order of the eleven presentations followed the below listing, followed up with question(s) & answer(s).
Public Presentations of Submitted Applications for 2017 Grant Cycle:

- 1) **Explore & More children's museum:** Feel the Falls in the Moving Water Educational Play Zone
Michelle Urbanczyk and Amelia Blake communicated the Explore & More application request of \$120,000 for the Play-It-Forward Capital Campaign which connect children and

families to the Buffalo community through seven educational play zones , including the *Feel the Falls* exhibit. If awarded, Greenway funding support will be matched dollar for dollar by an area foundation. 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.

2) **Cazenovia Community Resource Center (CCRC): Breakwater Bay Project**

Pierre Wallinder communicated the proposed project application request of \$749,393 to expand its not-for-profit operations based at the Sail Buffalo Sailing School and Community Boating Center to include a portion of the former site of the Cargill Elevator and South End Marina located at the southern end of Buffalo's Outer Harbor at 1515 Fuhrmann Boulevard. It is to be a public-private partnership between CCRC and 1515 Fuhrmann Boulevard, LLC to revitalize the property by creating a public accessible waterfront destination on Lake Erie. Operation of this site will allow for windsurfers, fisherman, sailors, boaters, jet skiers, walkers, bicyclists, and local and out-of-town visitors to enjoy Buffalo's unique waterfront. Additional information was requested by the Committee with respect to their application request; provide a copy of the executed site control agreement between CCRC and 1515 Fuhrmann Boulevard, LLC.

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

Donald Alessi communicated the Naval Park application request of \$120,000 is for the construction of the Circle of Hereos Platform which will consist of a 22 ft. diameter reinforced cement base with monolithic substrate that will be a support base for an engraved granite surface that will include inscriptions of the Naval Park logo surrounded by the word "Circle of Hereos" and "United States of America". The proposed project is identified in the recently completed Master Plan that was awarded Greenway funds. 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.

4) **Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy: Delaware Park Rumsey Woods – Phase 5 Construction**

Brian Dold and Greg Robinson communicated the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy application request for the construction funds totaling \$665,000 to extend the Scajaquada Trail with a multi modal path and trail network, formally connecting the existing trail to existing water-based recreation in Delaware Park and cultural events through restoration, improved wayfinding and interpretive signage and enhancing basic services to the park with a shelter (facilities) restoration. The requested funding of \$665,000 would be allocated ½ for the path and ½ for the shelter.

5) **Buffalo State College: Buffalo State Floating Classroom**

Dr. Susan McCarney and Rick Johnson communicated the Buffalo State application request of \$287,217; a two-year request for the construction and operation of a Floating Classroom. The first year request would be for the boat construction and outfitting in the amount of \$130,000. The remaining balance of \$157,217 would be operational, carrying classroom sized groups onto Lake Erie, the Buffalo River, the Outer Harbor, and the Blackrock and Erie

Canals to deliver a distinctive place-based, experimental learning programs and workshops that reintroduce student and adult passengers to the freshwater ecosystem that exists just past and along the shorelines, as well as the many cultural and historical sites that line the Buffalo waterways.

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

Andy Rabb communicated the City of Buffalo application request of \$500,000 to construct the second phase of waterfront access improvements, increasing site access, improving visitor experience and interpretive signage, roadway and parking alternatives, landscape and edge habitat and edge habitat improvements, and repurposing of existing sea plane ramp 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.

7) **City of Tonawanda: Waterfront Dock Expansion Project**

Mayor Rick Davis communicated the City of Tonawanda application request of \$557,380 to construct four ADA accessible dock enhancements consistent with the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan. The City of Tonawanda's Waterfront Dock Expansion Project aims to promote and further the vision of the Niagara River Greenway Plan by increasing inclusive access to and connections between the City's natural and scenic resources, cultural and historic sites and handicap-accessible waterfront and recreational facilities to improve and expand public waterfront access facilities as well as public safety.

8) **County of Erie: Shoreline Trail Enhancement Project**

Mark Rountree communicated Erie County's application request of \$650,750 for planning, construction and administration of shoreline trail enhancement, to improve the trail from Niawanda Park to just north of the City of Buffalo municipal line. Largely constructed in the 1980's, this segment is the most heavily used and is in need of revitalization and enhancement to meet the current usage demands, safety standards and to enhance the overall user experience. The proposed project seeks to increase access to and sightlines of the Niagara River waterfront, enhancing the recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

9) **Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences: Tifft Nature Preserve Visitor Center Improvements-Phase Two, Classroom Interior**

Marisa Wigglesworth communicated Tifft Nature Preserve's application request of \$315,225 for interior renovations of the East Classroom of the Herb and Jane Darling Environmental Education Center. Benefits of the project include improved ability to provide environmental education and programming, increased sustainability and energy efficiency of the Visitor Center, and expanded uses and revenue sources to maintain and operate Tifft Nature Preserve, an integral part of the Outer Harbor.

10) **Town of Grand Island: The Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Project**

Nathan McMurray communicated the Town of Grand Island's application request has decreased from \$474,460 to \$100,000 for the construction of a life-size bronze statue of

Grand Island native and local war hero Charles Neilans DeGlopper, which will act as a focal point of the park.

11) **Vision Niagara, Inc.: Feasibility and Implementation Study of Illuminating History and Connectivity**

Barbara Rowe communicated the that the proposed project request of \$45,000 (decreased from \$55,000 as per letter dated 3/5/2018 from Barbara Rowe) and the study will evaluate locations and methods, and propose implementation ready options, for utilizing night lighting to celebrate the history and culture of the Niagara Street Corridor.

7. **Other Business**

Motion to approve the revised Trustee Agreement between the Buffalo & Erie County Greenway Fund Standing Committee and with Manufacturers and Traders Trust Company to serve as Trustee for depository and investment of Greenway Funds.

Moved by Thomas Hershey, Second by Brendan Mehaffy.

Approved 4-0.

Chairman Bozer stated that the next Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 23, 2018, 8:30 AM, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo 726 Exchange Street, Suite 525 Buffalo, NY and the Announcements of Awards will be presented.

8. A motion to adjourn was made by Thomas Hershey, Second by Brendan Mehaffy.
Meeting adjourned 5:43 PM.