



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, 2019 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 (Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy), Julie Barry (Erie County alternate), Jason Paananen (City of Buffalo alternate) and Carol Jasen Sampson (New York Power Authority).
- 3) Meeting Minutes:
Motion to adopt the meeting minutes of December 14, 2018. Moved by Jason Paananen,
Second by Julie Barry.
Approved 4-0.
- 4) Designation of Chairman, Vice-Chairman(s) and Secretary for 2019-2020:
Motion to maintain the same designations as Alan Bozer- Chairman, Brendan Mehaffy and Thomas Hersey- Vice Chairman(s) and Carol Jasen Sampson- Secretary. Moved by Julie Barry, Second by Jason Paananen.
Approved 4-0.
- 5) 2018 Annual Report:
Motion to adopt the 2018 Annual Report. Moved by Julie Barry, Second by Jason Paananen.
Approved 4-0.
- 6) Public Comment (reserved for agenda items only) – NONE

Public Presentations of Submitted Project Applications for 2018 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 ten new applicant requests seeking approximately \$2 million of Greenway funds available for this round of applicants.

The order of the ten presentations was slightly changed due to scheduling conflicts and

afterwards was followed up with questions and answers.

Public Presentations of Submitted Applications for 2018 Grant Cycle:

1) **Buffalo & Erie Co. Naval & Military Park: Ph. 1 Lighting Improvements (LED upgrades)**

Ken Schwanekamp communicated the lighting improvements are consistent with the Buffalo & Erie Co. Naval & Military Park (BNMP) Master Plan that was funded with Greenway funds. The lighting project application request is \$261,229 and is identified as a priority project that will bring improvements to the stretch of land between the canal and Marine Drive/ Erie Street immediately adjacent to BNMP's offices and the docked ships at Buffalo's canalside.

2) **Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy: Scajaquada Trail Phase 5- Delaware Park Rumsey Woods Phase 3 Construction**

Brian Dold communicated that Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy is requesting a total of \$665,000 for construction funds to support Scajaquada Trail Phase 5 in Delaware Park Rumsey Woods and associated services during construction, project administration/ supervision and maintenance.

The objective of the proposed project is to extend the Scajaquada Trail with a multi modal path and trail network, formally connecting the existing trail to water-based recreation in Delaware Park and cultural events through path restoration, improved wayfinding and interpretive signage and enhancing the basic services in the park. This phase of the Scajaquada Trail is an important step in building towards the extension of the trail to Forest Lawn Cemetery and the east side of Buffalo.

3) **Buffalo Heritage Carousel, Inc.: Buffalo Heritage Carousel**

Elizabeth Nichols communicated the Buffalo Heritage Carousel is envisioned to provide family oriented recreation with an educational value at the terminus of the Erie Canal at Buffalo's Canalside. It was manufactured in 1924 by Herschell-Spillman in North Tonawanda and will celebrate the region's industrial heritage. It will create an iconic destination for visitors. The City of Buffalo, Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation, elected officials and community members strongly support this project. The Buffalo Heritage Carousel, Inc. is requesting construction funds totaling \$200,000 for the building that will house the Carousel.

4) **Buffalo Lighthouse Association, Inc.: S. Buffalo Lighthouse Restoration & Reuse Project**

Michael Vogel communicated that the Lighthouse Association, Inc. is requesting a total of \$82,400 for a top-down weather sealing and restoration work-repairing roof and ventilator ball system, re-glazing the lens room (lantern), restoring lantern itself to end water intrusion beyond the initial basic weather sealing done in 2017.

Chairman Bozer inquired on the public accessibility from landside to the lighthouse site and the name of the property owner and if the lighthouse has approval to access the site. Mr.

Vogel will provide the Committee additional information to respond to Chairman Bozer's inquiry. Mr. Vogel added there is water access to the lighthouse and boaters continue to access that site from that means. Ms. Barry asked the applicant what project is considered number one (Lighthouse or Tall Ships) and the applicant responded Tall Ships.

5) **Buffalo Lighthouse Association, Inc.: Tall Ships® & Lighthouse Point: Establishing a Recurring Festival**

Michael Vogel communicated the Lighthouse Association, Inc. is requesting a total of \$166,170 in establishing a recurring Buffalo & Erie County waterfront event, Tall Ships, that will help serve to reconnect the urban area with its historically and recreational waterfront at Canalside, further the waterfront renaissance and begin building toward the 2025 celebrations throughout the WNY region of the bicentennial of the completion of the Erie Canal. Operations for the July 4-7 festival are contracted. The funding request is for permanent equipment and event needs and will also be incorporated into other Association's waterfront programs. The Coast Guard has the lead role in security planning and in waterways usage. The festival also complies with the rules of the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation.

6) **Buffalo Naval Park Committee: African American Veterans Monument**

Warren Galloway communicated that the Buffalo Naval Park Committee (BNPC) is requesting a total of \$400,000 for the construction of NYS's and the country's first Monument to honor all of the wars that the US African American fought in. The monument is to be located at the Buffalo & Erie Co. Naval & Military Park (BNMP) at Canalside. BNMP supports this project along with state and local elected officials and the community. The funding request entails costs for the capital construction of the monument. The total project cost is estimated at \$1.3 M, with the majority of funds secured. Based on its proposed location on the greenway and its potential to be an amenity to draw visitors to the waterfront and display a historical portrayal.

7) **Buffalo Science Museum: Tifft Nature Preserve Visitor/ Market Study and Rebrand**

Peter Gabak communicated that the Buffalo Science Museum is requesting a total of \$86,400 for the planning of market assessment, the launching of promotion plan in support of restated mission and brand, the comprehensive marketing campaign to reach broader, untapped potential audience and the project administration cost.

8) **City of Buffalo: Empire State Trail Buffalo Section Gap Funding Project**

Andy Rabb and Julie Fetzer communicated that due to funding constraints within the upcoming NYSDOT Empire State Trail project, the City of Buffalo is requesting Greenway funds for trail reconstruction of the Empire State Trail within the City of Buffalo that was not addressed (funded) in the State project. The City plans to complete the gap in the trail that includes consistent width, trail striping, site restoration, signage, improved treatments at

intersections and administration. The total project cost is \$700K; however the City is requesting to reappropriate \$275,000 from the previously granted Greenway award (2017 cycle) for LaSalle Improvements. At the time when the City received Greenway funding in March 2018 for improvements to LaSalle Park, the City did not envision a substantial allocation from The Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation. In mid-October 2018 the RCW Foundation awarded \$100 Million to the City to turn LaSalle Park on Buffalo's Lower West Side into a signature park and to develop a completed regional trail system. A grant amendment to the awarded 2017 LaSalle project was requested by the City and will require approval by the Committee.

9) **County of Erie: Shoreline Trail Enhancement Project- Phase 1 Construction**

Sarah Gatti communicated that the County of Erie is requesting a total of \$514,785 to support the Phase I construction of the Shoreline Trail Enhancement Project. The Shoreline Trail is the most heavily used trail in WNY. As the connecting feature of the Niagara River Greenway, it provides an integral public access along Lake Erie and the Niagara River. The proposed project will improve the Shoreline Trail, from Niawanda Park to just north of the City of Buffalo municipal line.

10) **WNY Land Conservancy: Margery Gallogly Nature Sanctuary Trail System- Grand Island**

Jajeon Rose-Burney communicated that the WNY Land Conservancy is requesting a total of \$49,050 to create a new, year-round system at the Margery Gallogly Nature Sanctuary on Grand Island. The trails will be a critical piece of the emerging trail system in the Niagara River Greenway on Grand Island. The project will provide a low-impact public access to the Gallogly Nature Sanctuary and will showcase the natural beauty of the Niagara River Greenway to both residents and visitors. Matching funds in the amount of \$78,100 has been secured.

7) **Other Business** – NONE

- 8) A motion to adjourn was made by Jason Paananen, Second by Julie Barry.
Meeting adjourned 5:54 PM.