

AGENDA

HOST COMMUNITIES STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, March 27, 2018 – 12:30 p.m.

Niagara County Department of Economic Development

Thomas O'Donnell, Chairperson

Lee Wallace, Vice Chairperson

Representative:

_____ Mark Laurrie, - City of NF School District
_____ Paul Casseri – Lewiston-Porter School District
_____ Paul A. Dyster – City of Niagara Falls
_____ Lee Wallace – Town of Niagara
_____ Allison Brady - Niagara Wheatfield School District
_____ Wm. Keith McNall – Niagara County
_____ Steve Broderick - Town of Lewiston
_____ Lou Paonessa – New York Power Authority

Alternate:

_____ Angelo Massaro, Esq.
_____ Andrew Krazmien
_____ Thomas O'Donnell, Esq.
_____ Jackie Siegmann
_____ Scott Hapeman, Esq.
_____ Thomas Burgasser, Esq.
_____ Vacant
_____ Carol Sampson

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order – T. O'Donnell**
2. **Roll Call – M. Melloni**
3. **Pledge of Allegiance – T. O'Donnell**
4. **Introductions – T. O'Donnell**
5. **Approval of Meeting Minutes – T. O'Donnell**
 - 5.1 **October 3, 2017**
 - 5.2 **December 12, 2017**
6. **Presentation of HCSC 3-Year Audit – Sara Dayton, Lumsden McCormick**
7. **City of Niagara Falls**
 - 7.1 **91st Street Park Improvement – S. Piccirillo** *Jared Stephan*
(Determined Consistent by NRGC on 3/20/2018; approved for funding in the amount of \$200,000 by City of Niagara Falls on 3/15/2018)
 - 7.2 **Jayne Park Improvement – S. Piccirillo**
(Determined Consistent by NRGC on 3/20/2018; approved for funding in the amount of \$200,000 by City of Niagara Falls on 3/15/2018)
8. **Town of Niagara**
 - 8.1 **Transfer of Funds from Splash Pad at Veteran's Memorial Park to Veterans Memorial at Veterans Memorial Park – L. Wallace** (Request to transfer \$39,938.41)
 - 8.2 **Additional Funding Request for Veterans Memorial at Veterans' Memorial Park – L. Wallace** (Request for additional funding in the amount of \$13,325.40)
- 9.0 **Any Other Matters**
 - 9.1 **NRGC Agenda & Presentations from Citizens Advisory Committee – 10/19/2018 Meeting**
 - 9.2 **NRGC Minutes of January 16, 2018– Informational Only**
10. **Next Meeting: June 26, 2018 - 12:00 p.m.**
11. **Adjournment**

approved

*approved
unanimous*

*approved
unanimous*

*approved
unanimous*

*approved
unanimous*

5.1

Approve Minutes of October 3, 2017

**HOST COMMUNITIES
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 3, 2017 – 12:00 p.m.
Niagara County Department of Economic Development
6311 Inducon Corporate Drive
Sanborn, New York 14132**

Representatives Present:

Mark Laurrie
Paul Casseri, Superintendent
Lou Paonessa
Tom Burgasser, Esq.
Scott Hapeman, Esq.
Lee Wallace, Supervisor, VICE CHAIRPERSON
Steve Broderick, Supervisor
Thomas O'Donnell, Esq., CHAIRPERSON

Niagara Falls City School District
Lewiston Porter School District
New York Power Authority
Niagara County
Niagara Wheatfield School District
Town of Niagara
Town of Lewiston
City of Niagara Falls

Alternates/Guests:

Jackie Siegmann
Jeanne Leccese, Director
Angelo Massaro, Esq.

Town of Niagara
Niagara River Greenway Commission
Niagara Falls City School District

Staff Present:

Mary Melloni, Recording Secretary
Stan Widger, Esq., NPC Counsel, Nixon Peabody

-
- 1.0 Call to Order**
Chairperson O'Donnell called the Host Communities Standing Committee meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.
- 2.0 Roll Call**
Ms. Melloni called the roll.
- 3.0 Pledge of Allegiance**
Chairperson O'Donnell led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4.0 Introductions**
- 5.0 Approval of Meeting Minutes of August 1, 2017**
Mr. Wallace made a motion, seconded by Mr. Paonessa, to approve the meeting minutes of August 1, 2017. Motion passed.
- 6.0 Niagara River Greenway Commission Update – Jeanne Leccese, Executive Director**

Ms. Leccese explained that it has been one year since she was brought on board with the Commission. She welcomed Steve Broderick as a new Commissioner on the NRGCC. Ms. Leccese stated that there will be some shifts in the meeting structure. The Commission currently meets every other month on the 3rd Tuesday. This has been changed to a business meeting of all Commissioners where previously only executive officers attended. This will provide updates and an opportunity for commissioners to share ideas. The General Meeting will not change. Projects will be presented and voted on for consistency.

Ms. Leccese stated that the Citizen Advisory Committee has four priorities they will concentrate on in the coming year. First will be to complete the Niagara River Greenway Trail. They will identify trail gaps and develop a strategic plan that will include consistent Greenway Trail signage in conjunction with local trail signage. Priority 2 is "Where Green meets Blue," to support a healthy riparian ecosystem and implement Niagara River Greenway Habitat Conservation Strategy. Third will be to create a global eco-tourism destination, and finally to seek public engagement by joining with Buffalo Public Schools to implement a water-focused school program; and develop a robust Volunteer Corps to provide trail maintenance.

6.0 Niagara River Greenway Commission Update – Jeanne Leccese, Executive Director (Continued...)

Ms. Leccese explained that the Greenway Project Proposal application has been updated with two changes: one hard copy of the application and one electronic version. She will do a press release when the application is ready. They will be reinforcing the application process by highlighting how to apply for funding. They are revising the by-laws to reduce meetings from six to four in 2019. They will still hold five meetings in 2018 to insure applicants have the new information.

Mr. Ferraro stated that one of the components of the Greenway is the connection of the trails and other corridors. There are three designated State trails...the Seaway, Wine and Erie Canal. The importance of these trails should be stressed when negotiating funding opportunities with municipalities. Ms. Leccese stated that they do have discussions about those trails and she will pass this information on to the Commission.

7.0 HCSC 3-Year Audit Update – S. Hapeman

Mr. Hapeman explained that since the Committee was unable to come to a unanimous decision on a firm to perform the 3-year audit of the Host Communities Standing Committee, the Finance/Audit Committee recommends that a new RFP be prepared and sent to all auditors that were solicited three years ago. Mr. Burgasser made a motion to send out a new RFP for the 3-year Audit of the HCSC, seconded by Mr. Hapeman. Motion passed.

8.0 Approval of the Annual Report to NYPA

Mr. Widger explained that this report, which is similar to previous reports that are submitted each year, outlines expenditures, projects, bank accounts, etc. Mr. Hapeman made a motion to approve the Annual Report to NYPA, seconded by Mr. Burgasser. Motion passed.

9.0 Any other Matters

8.0 Next Meeting: November 28, 2017 - 12:00 p.m.

9.0 Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Hapeman, seconded by Mr. Burgasser. Meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary P. Melloni
Recording Secretary

5.2

Approve Minutes of December 12, 2017

**HOST COMMUNITIES
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 12, 2017 – 12:00 p.m.
Niagara County Department of Economic Development**

Representatives Present:

Mark Laurrie
Paul Casseri, Superintendent
Lou Paonessa
Tom Burgasser, Esq.
Scott Hapeman, Esq.
Lee Wallace, Supervisor, VICE CHAIRPERSON
Steve Broderick, Supervisor
Thomas O'Donnell, Esq., CHAIRPERSON

Niagara Falls City School District
Lewiston Porter School District
New York Power Authority
Niagara County
Niagara Wheatfield School District
Town of Niagara
Town of Lewiston
City of Niagara Falls

Alternates/Guests:

Jackie Siegmann

Town of Niagara

Staff Present:

Mary Melloni, Recording Secretary
Stan Widger, Esq., NPC Counsel, Nixon Peabody – Via Teleconference

1.0 Call to Order

Chairperson O'Donnell called the Host Communities Standing Committee meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

2.0 Roll Call

Ms. Melloni called the roll.

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson O'Donnell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 Introductions

5.0 HCSC 3-Year Audit RFP – S. Hapeman, Esq.

Mr. Hapeman explained that an RFP was sent to ten different entities. In response there were three firms that stated they did not wish to make a proposal; six firms did not respond; and one proposal was received. The proposal was from Lumsden McCormick LLP, the firm that currently performs the Niagara Power Coalition Audit from year to year and a firm that has an excellent reputation. Their proposal was for \$3,000 plus out-of-pocket expenses that would be approximately \$150. This is half the cost of the previous audits performed for the HCSC. Mr. Hapeman made the motion to approve Lumsden McCormick as the firm to perform the 3-year Audit of the HCSC, seconded by Mr. Burgasser. Motion passed.

6.0 Any other Matters

7.0 Next Meeting: January 30, 2017 - 12:00 p.m.

8.0 Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Hapeman, seconded by Mr. Burgasser. Meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary P. Melloni
Recording Secretary

6.0

Presentation of 3-Year Audit

(To be provided at meeting)

7.1

91st Street Park Improvement

Niagara Relicensing Environmental Coalition

721 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14213

*Adirondack
Mountain Club,
Niagara Chapter*

*Audubon New
York*

*Buffalo Niagara
WATERKEEPER*

*Citizens Campaign
for the
Environment*

*League of Women
Voters of Buffalo
Niagara*

*Niagara Musky
Association*

Presbytery of WNY

*Sierra Club,
Niagara Group*

*Western New York
Land Conservancy*

DATE: 03-09-2018
TO: Niagara River Greenway Commissioners
FROM: Niagara Relicensing Environmental Coalition
RE: Comments on Proposed Greenway Projects

The Niagara Relicensing Environmental Coalition has reviewed the proposals before you today and submits the following comments.

Osprey Nesting Platform and Migrator Habitat Enhancement – Great Lakes Center

We recommend this project be found consistent with the Greenway Plan. This project will implement pollinator habitat and native plants in the Greenway Focus Area. Platforms and nesting boxes for osprey and purple martins will enhance the natural resources of the globally important bird area where urbanization has drastically reduced suitable habitat. The inclusion of a web-cam in this project ensures that the public can enjoy the outcomes of the project, without directly disrupting birds. Use of students in habitat implementation and the life of this project also contribute to long-term stewardship in the Greenway.

We recommend inclusion of Greenway signage and/or funding recognition on the webpage that streams the video footage.

D'Amelio Park Playground, 91st Street Park Improvement, Jayne Park Improvement, Winter Skating Project – City of Niagara Falls

We recommend all four projects put forth by the City of Niagara Falls be found consistent with the Greenway Plan.

Although not ecological, these projects all promote free and outdoor public access in the Greenway. They will bring people to the waterfront, build towards connectivity of Greenway destinations and the City sought public input to guide designs.

Recommendations for improvement: The approach taken in Jayne Park is most ideal, and we hope to see the same elements of no-mow pollinator space and Greenway education at the other playgrounds as well. Inclusion of permeable pavement, bioswales or other stormwater management techniques at all four sites. Use of only native plants for landscaping at all four project sites. Central signage and maps to other Greenway projects.



March 21, 2018

Mr. Seth Piccirillo
Niagara Falls Community Development
1022 Main Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14301

Dear Mr. Piccirillo:

The Niagara River Greenway Commission is pleased to support your project, "91st Street Park Improvement".

I am attaching the comments provided by the Niagara Relicensing Environmental Coalition for your review.

It was suggested by the Niagara Relicensing Environmental Coalition to follow a similar approach as that taken in Jayne Park, incorporating no-mow pollinator space and Greenway educational aspects. Consider the addition of green infrastructure such as permeable pavement and bioswales. It is recommended that landscaping includes native plants only, and that the project incorporates central signage and maps to link the site to other Greenway projects.

The Niagara River Greenway is pleased to support this proposal and we wish you luck as you move your proposal to the Niagara Host Communities Standing Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Molly C. Dreyer".

Molly C. Dreyer

On behalf of the Niagara River Greenway Commission

CC: Mary Melloni, Niagara Host Communities Standing Committee
Greg Stevens, Chairman, Niagara River Greenway Commission

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: 91st Street Park Improvement Project
Location: 91st Street Park, City of Niagara Falls, New York
Site Address: 401-699 91st St, Niagara Falls, NY 14304
State: New York
Zip Code: 14304
Minor Civil Division: City of Niagara Falls, County of Niagara
County: County of Niagara

Property Proponent Property Interest: The City of Niagara Falls is the sole owner of 91st Street Park. This property is legally required to remain public park land, in perpetuity.

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Name: The Honorable Paul A. Dyster Title: Mayor
Business Address: City Hall, 745 Main Street
State: New York Zip Code: 14301
Telephone: (716) 286-4310 Cell: (716) 417-7458
Fax: (716) 286-4349
Email Address: paul.dyster@niagarafallsny.gov

PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Seth Piccirillo Title: Director, Community Development
Business Address: The Carnegie Building, 1022 Main Street
State: New York Zip Code: 14301
Telephone: (716) 286-8800 Cell: (716) 696-0794
Fax: (716) 286-4349

Email Address: seth.piccirillo@niagarafallsny.gov

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Purpose: Empowered by public participation, the City of Niagara Falls requests a \$200,000 grant to construct a new playground at 91st Street Park, in the City of Niagara Falls, New York. Local residents have advocated for a free place space at 91st Street Park for many years. Over the past two years, over 40 residents have worked through the Creating A Healthier Niagara Collaborative to make this goal a reality. The improvements include two traditional play areas for ages 2 – 7 and 8 – 14, and an area designed to facilitate adult fitness activity. The playground will also exceed ADA compliance standards. Kompan Playgrounds will execute playground design and the project can be completed in 2018, if funding is awarded.

Niagara River Greenway Plan Consistency: 91st Street Park is located on the eastern edge of the City of Niagara Falls, in a densely residential neighborhood, a quarter-mile from the Niagara River. However, the neighborhood is not physically designed to take full advantage of its waterfront location. The City of Niagara Falls is purposefully submitting this application to the Niagara River Greenway Commission at the same as the Jayne Park Improvement Project. Consistent with the Commission's vision and objectives, and the 2012 Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan, our goal is to connect residents in the Lasalle Area of Niagara Falls to the waterfront via public parks and dedicated bike lanes. 91st Street Park will connect to Jayne Park via interpretive signage and a dedicated bike lane along Buffalo Avenue. The City of Niagara Falls has dedicated \$500,000 to a Buffalo Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project that will better direct pedestrians and bicyclists to Lasalle Waterfront, the Riverway Trail and Niagara Falls State Park. A modern playground at 91st Street Park will benefit the public good through physical activity and connect residents to a wide range of Niagara River locations and activities through creative placemaking. Over the past five years, the City of Niagara Falls has completed 30 park improvements city-wide, using the master plan as a guiding and living document, rooted in public participation. Our ultimate goals are to connect all children to a high quality public space within .25 mile walk and to use park amenities to connect all residents to our world class waterways. This project, and our broader efforts along Buffalo Avenue, speak specifically to these important and ongoing goals.

If awarded, the City of Niagara Falls Community Development Department will manage the project planning and execution. Kompan Playgrounds is a company authorized under the New York State General Services Contract. Kompan would provide the site layout and rendering for municipal review. The City of Niagara Falls would be happy to include the Niagara River Greenway Commission in that review process. Upon municipal review, NFCD will also ask the public for comment and review. Equipment will be purchased by Kompan, under the New York State General Services Contract. Competitive bids will be requested for installation, per municipal law. Upon City Council approval, actual construction will begin in the 2018 construction season. Once contractors are on site, construction will be completed and closed out within three weeks.

SOURCES AND USES BUDGET

Niagara River Greenway Commission Request: \$200,000
City of Niagara Falls Contribution: \$50,000
Total Project Cost: \$250,000

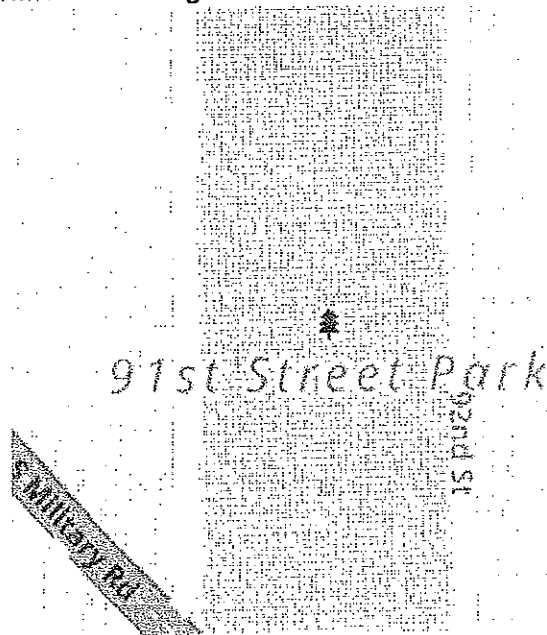
91st Street Park Improvement Project	
SOURCE OF FUNDS	
Grant #1 (Niagara River Greenway Commission	\$200,000
Other Source #1 (City of Niagara Falls - Design/Bid)	\$25,000
Other Source #2 (City of Niagara Falls - Annual Maintenance	\$25,000
TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDING	\$250,000
USE OF FUNDS	
Planning	\$25,000
Construction	\$200,000
Acquisition	\$0
Administration	\$0
Operation and Maintenance/Year	\$25,000
TOTAL USE OF FUNDS	\$250,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$250,000

Project Schedule	
Final Design	February-18
Procure Equipment	March-18
Bid Installation	June-18
Installation	June-August 18
Completion	September-18

While the City of Niagara Falls is requesting Niagara River Greenway Commission funds for a majority of this specific project, the City of Niagara Falls is executing a \$500,000 street space improvement and beatification project along Buffalo Avenue to connect 91st Street Park with Jayne and Lasalle Waterfront Parks, the Riverway Trail and Niagara Falls State Park.

Public Support: A new and accessible playground at 91st Street Park is consistent with the 2012 Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan, specifically created through extensive community workshops and public participation. Further, the Niagara Falls Community Development Department organized a public meeting in April and July 2017 to get local input, ideas and to create a user profile for the playground. The Niagara Falls Community Development Department has worked with the Creating A Healthier Niagara Collaborative over the past two years to create the project concept. The Niagara Falls City Council are voting to support this application, by resolution, on January 17, 2018.

Environmental Setting:



The City of Niagara Falls is the sole owner of 91st Street Park and the project site. Kompan Playgrounds is currently creating full schematic drawings and renderings. This property has always been public park land. The project will have no impact on any wetland or natural habitat. The relevant section of the 2012 Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan are included with this submission.

Park Type: Local Park

Size: 5.8 Acres

Location Description: Residential Neighborhood

91st Street Park

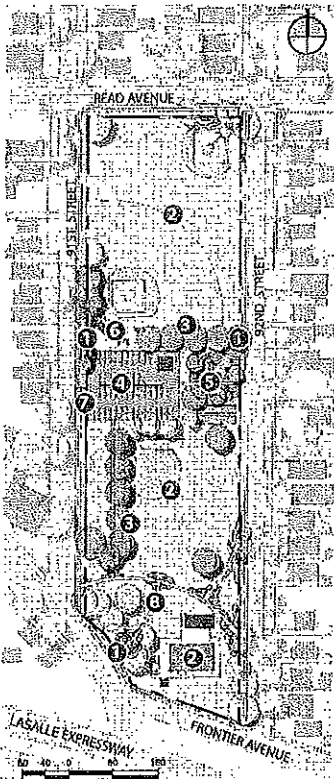
Park 25

Park Description

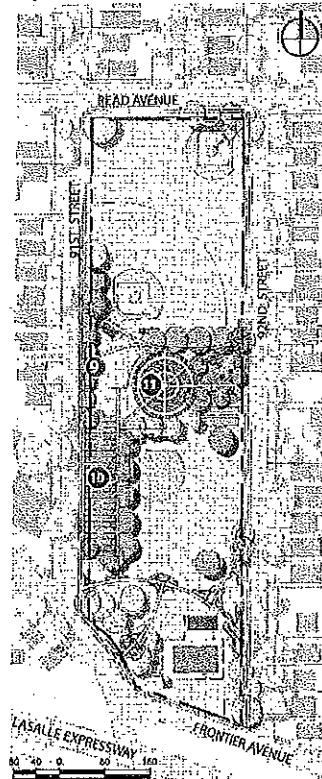
91st Street Park contains athletic facilities and is located in a residential neighborhood. Residential streets are located on all four sides of the park and the LaSalle Expressway travels along the south edge of the park. The park is organized linearly with baseball fields at the northern 2/3 of the park and a pool area at the southern end. Vehicular access and the parking are located in the center of the park and accessed from the west side of the park. Public sidewalks provide access at the north and south edges of the park.

Park Master Plan

Short - Mid Term Master Plan



Long Term Master Plan (Recreate Historic Plan)



- ① Install park identification
- ② Retain existing ball fields and pool
- ③ Plant shade trees
- ④ Re-stripe existing parking lot
- ⑤ Add natural play area
- ⑥ Restore concession stand (includes drinking fountain and restrooms)
- ⑦ Add security camera
- ⑧ Reintroduce historic path system

Long-Term Plan Improvements

- ⑨ Plant shade trees
- ⑩ Relocate parking lot
- ⑪ Expand historic path system, including central plaza

Proposed Capital Improvements

The improvements recommended for 91st Street Park will enhance the park user experience. The baseball fields and swimming pool are the primary amenities at the park. It is recommended that the baseball fields and pool should be maintained. Additional recommendations include restoration of the existing concession stand, installation of a drinking fountain, restrooms, a new playground, as well as increased shade with the planting of shade trees throughout the park. The existing parking lot should be restriped to clearly identify vehicular circulation, pedestrian routes, and parking spaces, which will help to alleviate congestion during baseball games. Because there is rich history associated with this park, it is recommended that historic elements of the park are reintroduced, as the park is developed. Historic improvements to the park include the reintroduction of the historic path system, new plantings, and interpretive signage.

91st Street Park

Park 25

Implementation Strategy

The individual City in a Park Plan master plans incorporate a two-tiered approach to implementation, first prioritizing the parks within the overall system and then prioritizing the recommended improvements within each park.

This park is categorized as a 'Mid-Term Improvement Park.' It is expected that parks in this category provide opportunities to improve recreational opportunities and reduced maintenance in the next five to eight years. However, the parks in this category are generally less utilized and the park condition may be acceptable for the next five years.

Park Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
1 Install park identification	SHORT TERM	\$3,000
2 Retain existing ball fields and pool	ONGOING	--
3 Plant shade trees	SHORT TERM	\$13,800
4 Re-stripe existing parking lot	SHORT TERM	\$2,200
5 Add natural play area	MID TERM	\$133,920
6 Restore concession stand (includes drinking fountain and restrooms)	MID TERM	\$65,900
7 Add security camera	MID TERM	\$10,000
8 Reintroduce historic path system	LONG TERM	\$101,000
Long-Term Plan Improvements		
9 Plant shade trees	LONG TERM	\$2,400
10 Relocate parking lot	LONG TERM	\$118,600
11 Expand historic path system, including central plaza	LONG TERM	\$253,000

Total Cost: \$702,920

SHORT TERM: Improvements that should take place in the next 4 years. These improvements are a high priority because they will achieve one or all of the following: increased safety, reduces maintenance costs, fulfill a community need, or funding is available.

MID TERM: Improvements that should take place in the next 5-8 years. These improvements are a lower priority because of one or all of the following: improvement is dependent on short-term improvements, they require significant investment, or funding sources have not been identified.

LONG TERM: Improvements that are not likely to take place until 8 or more years from now. These improvements typically have high costs associated with them or are dependent on future development or community need.

I hereby certify that the following Resolution was adopted at a Meeting of the City Council held on March 15, 2018:

RESOLUTION No. 2018-21

GREENWAY FUNDING REQUEST FOR 91ST STREET PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

BY:

Council Chairman Andrew Touma
Council Member Kenny Tompkins

WHEREAS, the City of Niagara Falls has applied to the Niagara River Greenway Commission for consistency review for the above referenced project; and

WHEREAS, the project calls for the construction of two (2) traditional play areas for ages 2 – 7 and 8 – 14, and an area designated to facilitate adult fitness activity; and

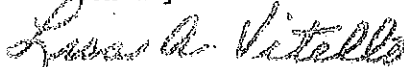
WHEREAS, funding is available from Power Authority Greenway Funding for this project in the total amount of \$200,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the City is requesting that the Host Community Standing Committee approve this funding in the amount of \$200,000.00.

WHEREAS, no additional City funds are required for this project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Niagara Falls, New York that it hereby approves this Power Authority Greenway Funding Request and authorizes the Mayor to act on behalf of the City in all matters related to this request.

Witness my Hand and Seal this
16th day of March 2018



Lisa A. Vitello
City Clerk

7.2

Jayne Park Improvement



March 21, 2018

Mr. Seth Piccirillo
Niagara Falls Community Development
1022 Main Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14301

Dear Mr. Piccirillo:

The Niagara River Greenway Commission is pleased to support your project, "Jayne Park Improvement".

I am attaching the comments provided by the Niagara Relicensing Environmental Coalition for your review.

It was suggested by the Niagara Relicensing Environmental Coalition to consider the addition of green infrastructure such as permeable pavement and bioswales. It is recommended that landscaping includes native plants only, and that the project incorporates central signage and maps to link the site to other Greenway projects.

The Niagara River Greenway is pleased to support this proposal and we wish you luck as you move your proposal to the Niagara Host Communities Standing Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Molly C. Dreyer".

Molly C. Dreyer

On behalf of the Niagara River Greenway Commission

CC: Mary Melloni, Niagara Host Communities Standing Committee
Greg Stevens, Chairman, Niagara River Greenway Commission

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: Jayne Park Improvement Project

Location: Jayne Park, City of Niagara Falls, New York
Park located on Cayuga Island

Site Address: Jayne Park, Cayuga Island (Area bordering Griffon Avenue)
Existing playground area

State: New York

Zip Code: 14304

Minor Civil Division: City of Niagara Falls, County of Niagara

County: County of Niagara

Property Proponent Property Interest: The City of Niagara Falls is the sole owner of Jayne Park. This property is legally required to remain public park land, in perpetuity.

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Name: The Honorable Paul A. Dyster Title: Mayor

Business Address: City Hall, 745 Main Street

State: New York Zip Code: 14301

Telephone: (716) 286-4310 Cell: (716) 417-7458

Fax: (716) 286-4349

Email Address: paul.dyster@niagarafallsny.gov

PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Seth Piccirillo Title: Director, Community Development

Business Address: The Carnegie Building, 1022 Main Street

State: New York Zip Code: 14301

Telephone: (716) 286-8800 Cell: (716) 696-0794

Fax: (716) 286-4349

Email Address: seth.piccirillo@niagarafallsny.gov

PROJECT NARRATIVE

1. **Purpose:** Niagara Greenway funds would be specially used to construct an authentic free play space mere yards away from the Niagara River, named the "The Little River Big River Playground." Using the current playground foot print, two separate age-centric play areas will be created. The playground's equipment choices and aesthetic will reference water-based activities and facts, with specific references to the Niagara River. The 2-5 year old area will be designated as "Little River," featuring a two bay toddler swing and small child play unit. The "Big River" section will be designed for 5-14 year olds, with a larger climb-centric play unit, and a four bay swing set. Big River will also feature an ADA compliant swing bay and a play area with wheelchair level sensory/musical features to best serve children of all abilities. Facts about the Niagara River will also be imbedded into equipment throughout the playground. All play areas will feature "pour in place" safety surfacing to accommodate all potential fall heights. The current playground features wood chips which creates user, aesthetic and sanitary problems.
2. **Niagara River Greenway Plan Consistency:** Jayne Park is located on Cayuga Island, just yards away from the Niagara River. The island splits the "big river" and "little river." Jayne Park is uniquely positioned to be a public space that is used for both passive and tranquil observance of our city's waterways as well as more active use through jogging, basketball and use of the playground. The proposed project will advance the Niagara River Greenway vision by connecting the public to green space and the Niagara River through accessible free play and physical activity. The Jayne Park Improvement Project also builds on existing investment in Jayne Park and the Niagara Falls City Boat Docks as part of a multi-year strategy to protect the ecological integrity of the our city, especially the sections that directly link to the waterfront. A new Jayne Park playground is consistent with the 2012 City of Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan, built through community based participation. Over the past five years, the City of Niagara Falls has completed 30 park improvements city-wide, using the master plan as a guiding and living document, rooted in public participation. Our ultimate goals are to connect all children to a high quality public space within .25 mile walk and to use park amenities to connect all residents to our world class waterways. This Jayne Park project speaks specifically to these important and ongoing goals.

Jayne Park was recently upgraded with a new pedestrian pathway, water overlooks and a park shelter. These enhancements have increased the park's use, as more and more residents use its facilities as part of a healthier lifestyle in close proximity to natural resources. However, the current playground, at the terminus of the trail (Griffon Avenue) is outdated and in need of an upgrade. Earlier this year, Cayuga Island residents

approached the City of Niagara Falls, advocating for a new playground. The Niagara Falls Community Development Department organized a public meeting in July to get local input, ideas and to create a user profile for the playground. Ultimately, the Jayne Park Improvement Project will celebrate the Niagara Falls waterfront, the Niagara River Greenway Commission's vision through connectivity, improving the public well-being in the process.

If awarded, the City of Niagara Falls Community Development Department will manage the project planning and execution. Kompan Playgrounds is a company authorized under the New York State General Services Contract. Kompan would provide the site layout and rendering for municipal review. The City of Niagara Falls would be happy to include the Niagara River Greenway Commission in that review process. Upon municipal review, NFCD will also ask the public for comment and review. Equipment will be purchased by Kompan, under the New York State General Services Contract. Competitive bids will be requested for installation, per municipal law. Upon City Council approval, actual construction will begin in the 2018 construction season. Once contractors are on site, construction will be completed and closed out within three weeks.

SOURCES AND USES BUDGET

3. Niagara River Greenway Commission Request:	\$200,000
City of Niagara Falls Contribution:	\$50,000
Total Project Cost:	\$250,000

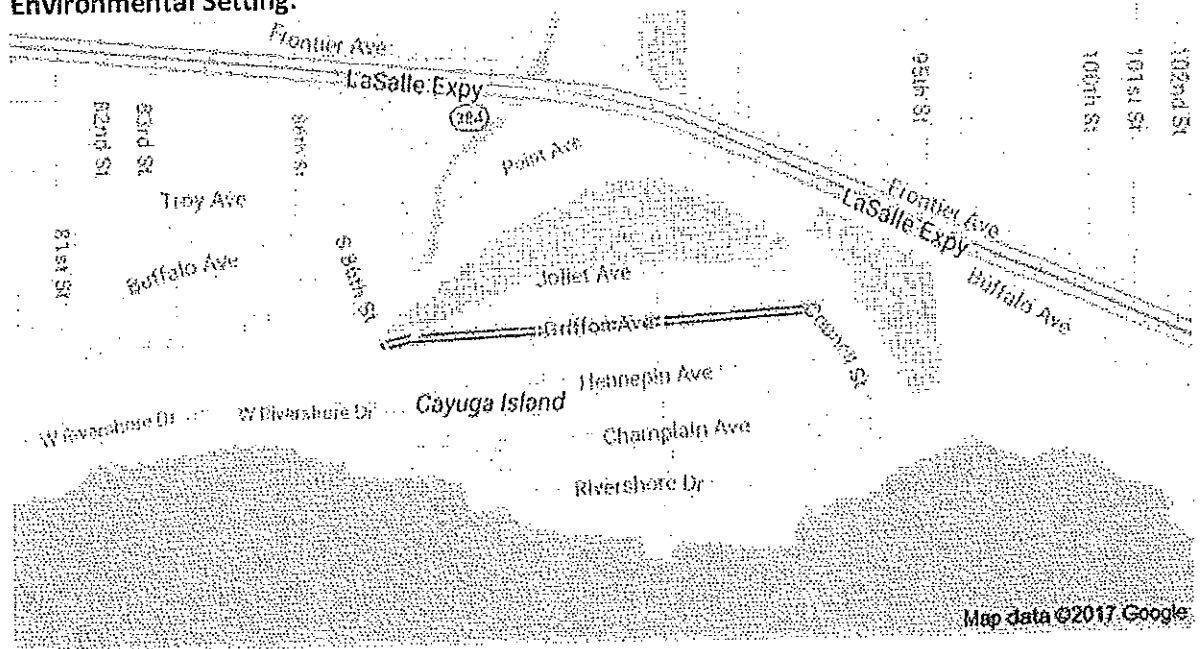
Jayne Park Improvement Project	
SOURCE OF FUNDS	
Grant #1 (Niagara River Greenway Commission	\$200,000
Other Source #1 (City of Niagara Falls - Design/Bid)	\$25,000
Other Source #2 (City of Niagara Falls - Annual Maintenance	\$25,000
TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDING	\$250,000
USE OF FUNDS	
Planning	\$25,000
Construction	\$200,000
Acquisition	\$0
Administration	\$0
Operation and Maintenance/Year	\$25,000
TOTAL USE OF FUNDS	\$250,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$250,000

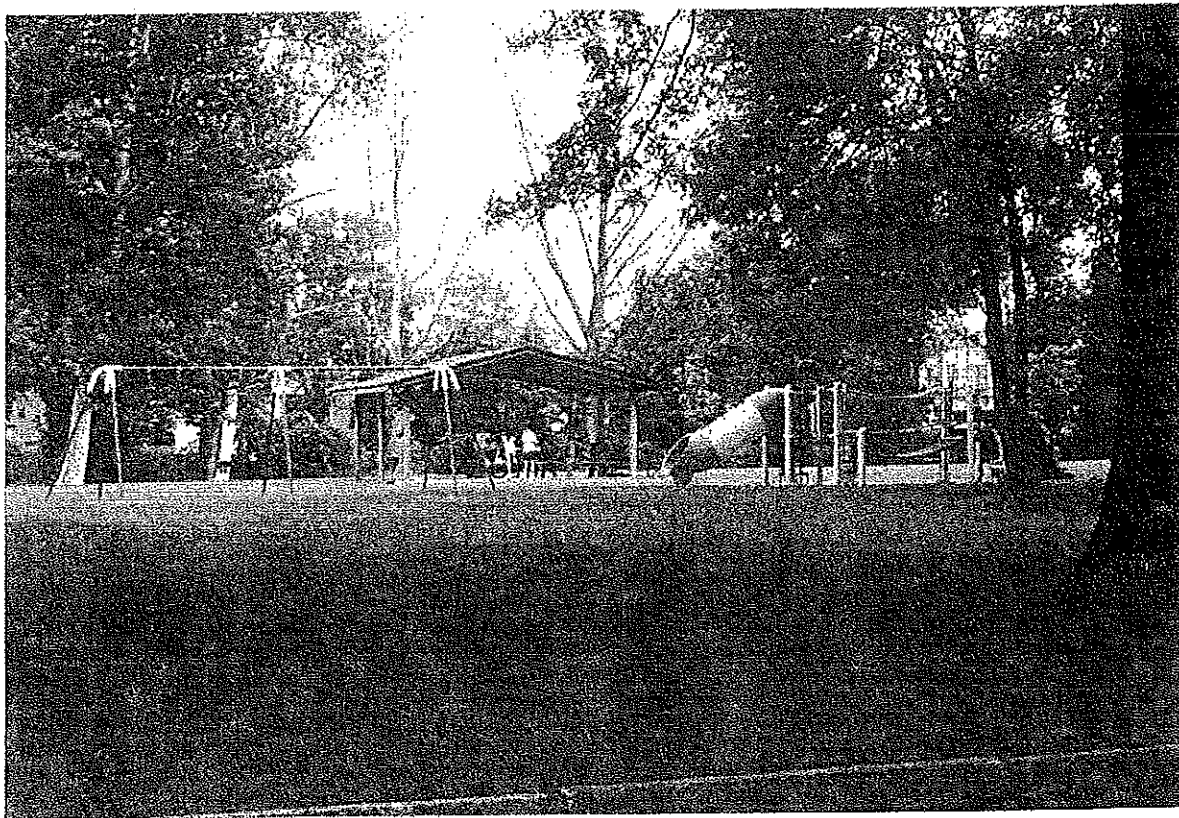
Project Schedule	
Final Design	February-18
Procure Equipment	March-18
Bid Installation	June-18
Installation	June-August 18
Completion	September-18

While the City of Niagara Falls is requesting Niagara River Greenway Commission funds for a majority of this specific project, the City of Niagara Falls sponsored, and applied for other funds, for over \$1 million in public realm improvements at Jayne Park and the Niagara Falls City Boat Docks.

4. **Public Support:** An accessible and enhanced playground at Jayne Park is consistent with the 2012 Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan, specifically created through extensive community workshops and public participation. Further, the Niagara Falls Community Development Department organized a public meeting in July to get local input, ideas and to create a user profile for the playground. The current push for this project has started with, and is sustained by local residents on Cayuga Island. The Niagara Falls City Council are voting to support this application, by resolution, on January 17, 2018.

5. **Environmental Setting:**





The City of Niagara Falls is the sole owner of Jayne Park and the project site. Kompan Playgrounds is currently creating full schematic drawings and renderings. This property has always been public park land. The City of Niagara Falls Planning Department conducted an environmental assessment as part of the Jayne Park waterfront trail project. As this project will exist within the current playground footprint, it will have no impact on any wetland or natural habitat. The relevant section of the 2012 Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan are included with this submission.

Park Type: Large Park
Size: 20.7 Acres
Location Description: Residential Neighborhood of Cayuga Island

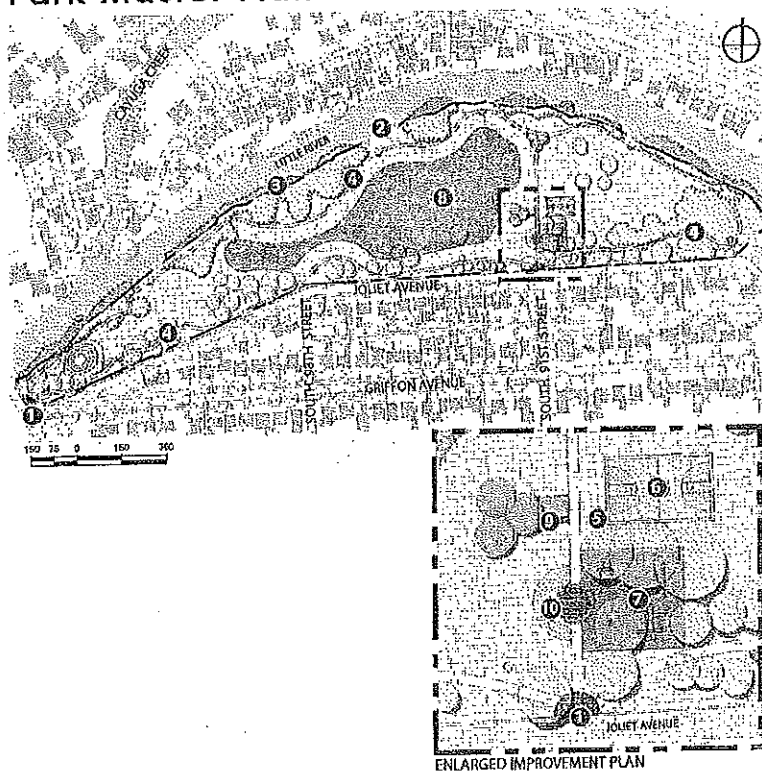
Jayne Park

Park 26

Park Description

Jayne Park is located on the Little River Channel of the Niagara River, at the confluence of the River and Cayuga Creek. The park includes open green space, a sledding hill at western end of the park, active recreation areas towards the east and a large vegetated area at the far eastern end. A memorial garden located in the center of the park contains a flagpole and planter.

Park Master Plan



- ① Add park identification
- ② Selectively clear views to water
- ③ Manage invasive species
- ④ Add pedestrian circulation path with fitness circuit
- ⑤ Add trash receptacles
- ⑥ Resurface basketball court
- ⑦ Replace playground
- ⑧ Naturalize former baseball field with wildflower meadow
- ⑨ Modernize comfort station
- ⑩ Small plaza with seating and ornamental plantings

Proposed Capital Improvements

Proposed improvements at Jayne Park include managing invasive species, selectively clearing views to the water, and adding a pedestrian circulation path with fitness circuit through the park. Improvements to existing park amenities include resurfacing of the basketball court, replacement of the existing playground, and restoration of the comfort station. In an effort to reduce maintenance costs and increase biodiversity, it is recommended that the former baseball fields are naturalized with a wildflower meadow, including educational signage.

Jayne Park

Park 26

Implementation Strategy

The individual City in a Park Plan master plans incorporate a two-tiered approach to implementation, first prioritizing the parks within the overall system and then prioritizing the recommended improvements within each park.

This park is categorized as a 'Short-Term Investment Park.' It is expected that parks in this category provide opportunities that would result in improved recreational opportunities in the short term (0-4 years). Parks in this category may contain amenities that are in disrepair and/or are highly utilized. Additionally, funding sources have typically already been identified to assist in the implementation of many of the recommended improvements.

Park Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
1 Add park identification	SHORT TERM	\$10,000
2 Selectively clear views to water	SHORT TERM	\$2,686
3 Manage invasive species	ONGOING	--
4 Add pedestrian circulation path with fitness circuit	SHORT TERM	\$212,000
5 Add trash receptacles	SHORT TERM	\$2,800
6 Resurface basketball court	SHORT TERM	\$24,400
7 Replace playground	SHORT TERM	\$199,750
8 Naturalize former baseball field with wildflower meadow	SHORT TERM	\$144,500
9 Modernize comfort station	LONG TERM	\$60,000
10 Small plaza with seating and ornamental plantings	LONG TERM	\$52,500
Total Cost:		\$708,636

SHORT TERM: Improvements that should take place in the next 4 years. These improvements are a high priority because they will achieve one or all of the following: increased safety, reduces maintenance costs, fulfill a community need, or funding is available.

MID TERM: Improvements that should take place in the next 5-8 years. These improvements are a lower priority because of one or all of the following: improvement is dependent on short-term improvements, they require significant investment, or funding sources have not been identified.

LONG TERM: Improvements that are not likely to take place until 8 or more years from now. These improvements typically have high costs associated with them or are dependent on future development or community need.

I hereby certify that the following Resolution was adopted at a Meeting of the City Council held on March 15, 2018:

RESOLUTION No. 2018-23

GREENWAY FUNDING REQUEST FOR JAYNE PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

BY:

Council Chairman Andrew Touma
Council Member Kenny Tompkins

WHEREAS, the City of Niagara Falls has applied to the Niagara River Greenway Commission for consistency review for the above referenced project; and

WHEREAS, the project calls for the construction of two (2) age-centric play areas using the existing playground footprint; and

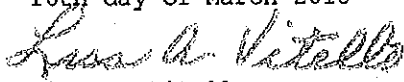
WHEREAS, funding is available from Power Authority Greenway Funding for this project in the total amount of \$200,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the City is requesting that the Host Community Standing Committee approve this funding in the amount of \$200,000.00.

WHEREAS, no additional City funds are required for this project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Niagara Falls, New York that it hereby approves this Power Authority Greenway Funding Request and authorizes the Mayor to act on behalf of the City in all matters related to this request.

Witness my Hand and Seal this
16th day of March 2018


Lisa A. Vitello
City Clerk

8.0

Town of Niagara

8.1 Transfer of Funds

8.2 Additional Funding

Veteran Memorial Park Project

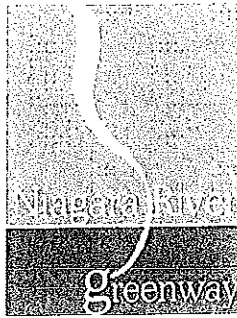
The project was approved by the HCSC in June of 2016, at a cost of \$340,000.

Construction costs were estimated for our proposal at \$340,766.39, actual costs were \$371,124.01.

Our original proposal failed to include Engineer Costs of \$22,139.80.

9.1

NRGC Agenda & Presentations (Informational Only)



Agenda

Citizen Advisory Committee of the Niagara River Greenway Commission

October 19, 2017

- 10:00 Review poster presentations from seven UB Law students
- 10:15 Current Plans and Priorities of NRGCC, Jeanne Leccese
- 10:30 Discussion: How to improve the Greenway as a linear system of parks, trails, and conservation areas
- 11:00 Discussion: How to improve the application and review process for Greenway funding
- 11:15 Discussion: How to educate the public about the Greenway and encourage its use
- 11:30 Discussion: How to forge innovative collaborations with other groups to advance the Greenway
- 11:45 Discussion: What should be role of Citizen Advisory Committee?
- 12:00 Adjourn

The students' section-by-section reports on the Greenway can be found at
<http://greenbflo.wikispaces.com/Section-by-Section+Greenway+Analyses>.

Additional Greenway resources are at
<http://greenbflo.wikispaces.com/Niagara+Greenway>.

How to improve the Greenway as a linear system of parks, trails and conservation areas?

- More tracking of the projects, knowing where the projects are on the Greenway, more monitoring and evaluation
- Solar trees along the trail
- Travel on Niagara Street is an issue – extending the trail under the Peace Bridge and utilizing the old toll area so that there is zero travel along Niagara Street.
- Army Corps pedestrian bridge (Hamilton Street) is a challenge because it's closed on weekends and federal holidays. Potential for another pedestrian bridge that links northern Unity Island to Black Rock.
- Use Delaware Park as a major hub because it has a lot to offer. And then having connections off of it through the Scajaquada Trail to the Shoreline Trail
- Kayak rentals at Aqua Park (Tonawanda Park).
- Want to see more families getting out on the trail through 5Ks and other family-friendly activities, also have more snack bars, bike rentals
- Create a passport/stamp/collectable to get more people to experience the entire trail.
- River Road in Wheatfield: need an accessible green bike lane (similar to Niagara Street), make this more aesthetically pleasing
- In the Niagara Falls area need more bathrooms, bike share, getting better signage on how to get to the Greenway, include the Greenway logo on the State Park signage
- There's no unified trail in Lewiston. Should have a bike path on First Street. Trails in ArtPark need to be better maintained. Increasing public awareness in Lewiston, talk with them see what they want to see.
- Signage in Fort Niagara State Park, Four Mile State Park, Youngstown is lacking. Commission should reach out to Old Fort Niagara Friends Group and the Soccer League could be a helpful partner.
- Explore unifying the trail with green public transit.
- Interested in maintaining passive recreation along the trail. Would like to see stronger connection and more public awareness to the Foothills/Finger Lakes Lakes Trail Club trails.
- Incredible resource for birds. We have world-class birds that come through the Niagara River corridor every day. Want to promote the wildlife corridor that this really is.
- Increase the number of bird sculptures similar to Black Rock Canal.
- We do quite a bit of habitat restoration but we're not looking at the end result of what we're achieving. Creating wonderful habitat areas that now the public is using them in an inappropriate way. We need to look at developing management plans.
- Who are the best messengers – children. Should be thinking about water quality, run off, using native plants.
- Operations and maintenance continues to be a stumbling block. Have a national speaker come in to speak of examples that are being done well for operations and maintenance as inspiration and aspiration.
- Grand Island bridges – Thruway Authority is closing the pedestrian access by gate. Need to bring the Thruway Authority to the table. If you don't have guarantee access for the trail then you won't have people using the trail.
- Looking at ways to naturalize our shorelines. Undergoing an Erie County Parks Master Plan to look at improvements along the trails and parks.
- Cherry Farm is a great opportunity and the big issue is getting someone to be responsible for the continued monitoring and leaching system. Possible portion of Cherry Farm to be used as a solar farm.
- Wetland enhancement and protection from urban sprawl. We need to focus on the protection of development projects that have not been done. Need to address long term monitoring. Need to implement small and big projects.
- Linking the 37-mile trail corridor to the Olmsted Parks system and amenities that are inland. Building the digital way finding and interpretation. Many of these landscapes are disturbed

landscapes so invasive species becomes a long-term management issue. Consistency over the whole corridor. There's maintenance and operations and then there's management, which is a different concern.

- Look at connections to parks that are in the interior area to the Greenway Focus Area. Really creating a link to the interior amenities such as parks and cultural amenities.

How to improve the application and review process for Greenway funding?

- In Niagara County, municipalities are using the large portion of the funds. There needs to be an educational component to municipalities, local governments – they should have an equal access to the application process. Convene the Local Government Advisory Committee. It needs to promote continuing education orientation, perhaps online.
- NREC – relicensing environmental coalition. Read all the incoming proposals and give comment. Working on proactive outreach with municipalities to explain the role of NREC and to get the gears turning on applying and implementation.
- Would be good to choose an urban location for Commission meetings
- Better communication and reporting back between the Standing Committees and Commission. What are you accomplishing with the Greenway funds. Commissioners and Standing Committees should reread and review the Greenway Plan yearly. Look also to update the Greenway Plan through a strategic plan.
- Ensuring that projects go to the correct Standing Committee. Might need to do a better job of publicizing the criteria that each of the Standing Committees are using.
- Need to have some kind of pre-coordination application consultation.
- Make sure you require a management plan for the end use of the proposal.
- If you have an idea for the Greenway, it should be brought to the ED
- Greenway funds are not publicized as part of other grant funds that are available.

How to educate the public about the Greenway and encourage its use? How to forge innovative collaborations with other groups to advance the Greenway?

- Millions of tourists coming to Niagara Falls, Greenway should be at the Visitor's Center.
- Visitors Bureau (Visit Buffalo Niagara) that is focused on eco tourism. These are resources that they're trained in this area. Need to use them to address the outreach of the Greenway.
- Need to have events that draw people to the Niagara River Greenway. Antique Bicycle Club event. If you don't force people to go on the trail then they won't know about it. I went to Niagara Falls, what else can I do? We have a lot of interest all over the world. It's an exciting way to convey the message about the Greenway.
- The biggest logo on the Shoreline Trail signage should be the Greenway logo. Think about adding Greenway flags along the trail. Hold every project accountable to ensure that signage is part of the project – would need to help of the Standing Committees to enforce. Buffalo/Erie County Standing Committee does a really nice job of that through the Erie County Sign Shop. The Standing Committee provides the sign and it's the responsibility of the construction company (project applicant) to be able to install the sign.
- What is the purpose of this Greenway? Is it more of a leadership type role? Don't really think about it needing to be a place. (Tim)
- We need an app. No one pays attention to the old-school signs. The app should be integrated into other services/apps that are being well utilized. Be able to upload photos. See all the projects that have been Greenway funded. Include the amenities such as bathrooms, restaurants, etc. It would be great for the app development to be rolled into the website redesign.

What would you picture drawing 1,000 more people?

- World class, unique.
- A living aquarium at the Outer Harbor.
- Manmade ice climbing wall.
- Land bridges over the expressway.
- A sky gondola connecting people from Canalside to Outer Harbor, they can be glass-bottomed. Could simulate the grain elevator moving buckets. Roosevelt Island in NYC has a gondola.
- Need to make it useful and provide those linkages. Get the networks established.

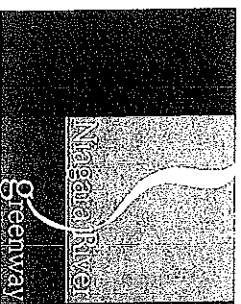
What should be the role of Citizen Advisory Committee?

- Facilitate communication between the general public and the Commission, get their input on what the Greenway should be come. Opportunity for stakeholders and interested parties to talk with each other.
- Good spot to bring the roundtables conversations back to.
- Would much rather invest time in specific solutions and issues (such as roundtable discussions) and then have the larger group come meet annually.
- Go to the Standing Committee meetings and have a spot on the agenda, this is what the public wants to see.
- Most municipalities have citizen advisory boards that hold on institutional knowledge. It is important to reach out to them.
- Who else should we be including in the roundtables? Make some progress and then report back.

NIAGARA RIVER GREENWAY COMMISSION

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 20, 2017



niagaragreenway.org

VISION

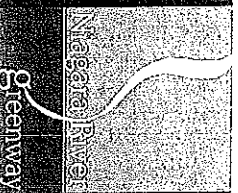
The Niagara River Greenway is a **WORLD-CLASS CORRIDOR**

[of **PLACES, PARKS** and **LANDSCAPES** that celebrates and interprets

[our unique **NATURAL, CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL, SCENIC**
and **HERITAGE RESOURCES** and

[provides **ACCESS TO** and **CONNECTIONS** between
these important resources while giving rise to

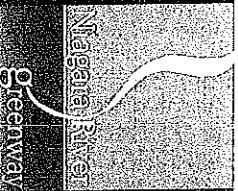
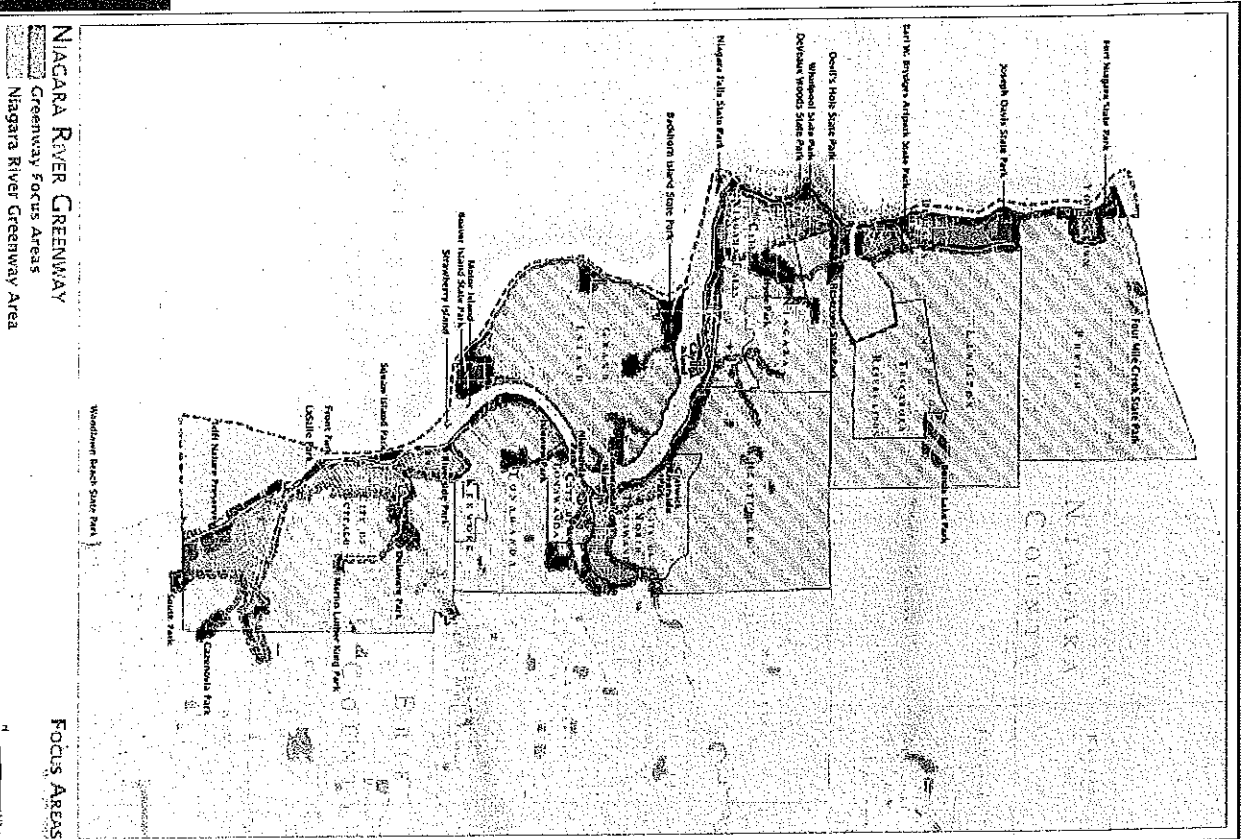
[**ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES** for the region.



niagaragreenway.org

NIAGARA RIVER GREENWAY

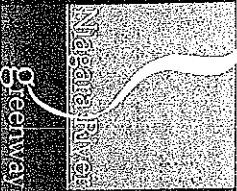
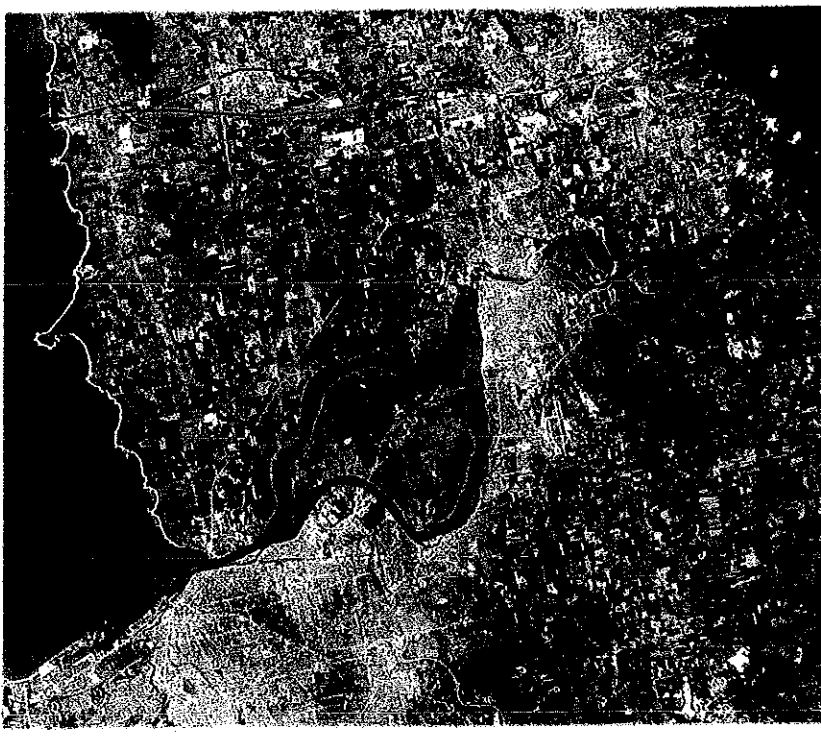
- 37 miles of corridor
- 237 square miles
- 100 miles shoreline
- 275 miles of trails
- Established **September 21, 2004** through Chapter 460 of the Laws of 2004
- **Public Benefit Corporation** to create Niagara River Greenway Plan and subsequent implementation



Listening Tour: PRIORITY ONE

A continuous trail from two Great Lakes:
Lake Ontario to Lake Erie

- Complete the Niagara River
Greenway Trail
- Identify trail gaps and develop
strategic plan
- Consistent Greenway Trail
Signage in conjunction with
local trail signage

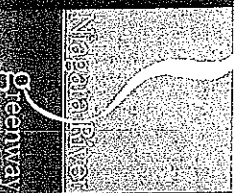


niagaragreenway.org

Listening Tour: PRIORITY TWO

Where GREEN meets BLUE

- Support a healthy riparian ecosystem
- Implement Niagara River Greenway Habitat Conservation Strategy



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Listening Tour: PRIORITY THREE

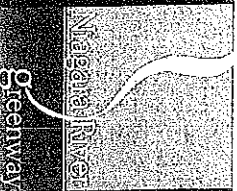
Global Eco-Tourism

Destination

- Create the Active

Living Economy

- Move Ramsar
nomination forward

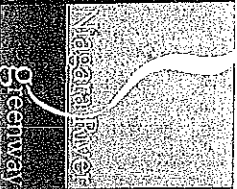


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Listening Tour: PRIORITY FOUR

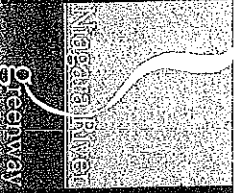
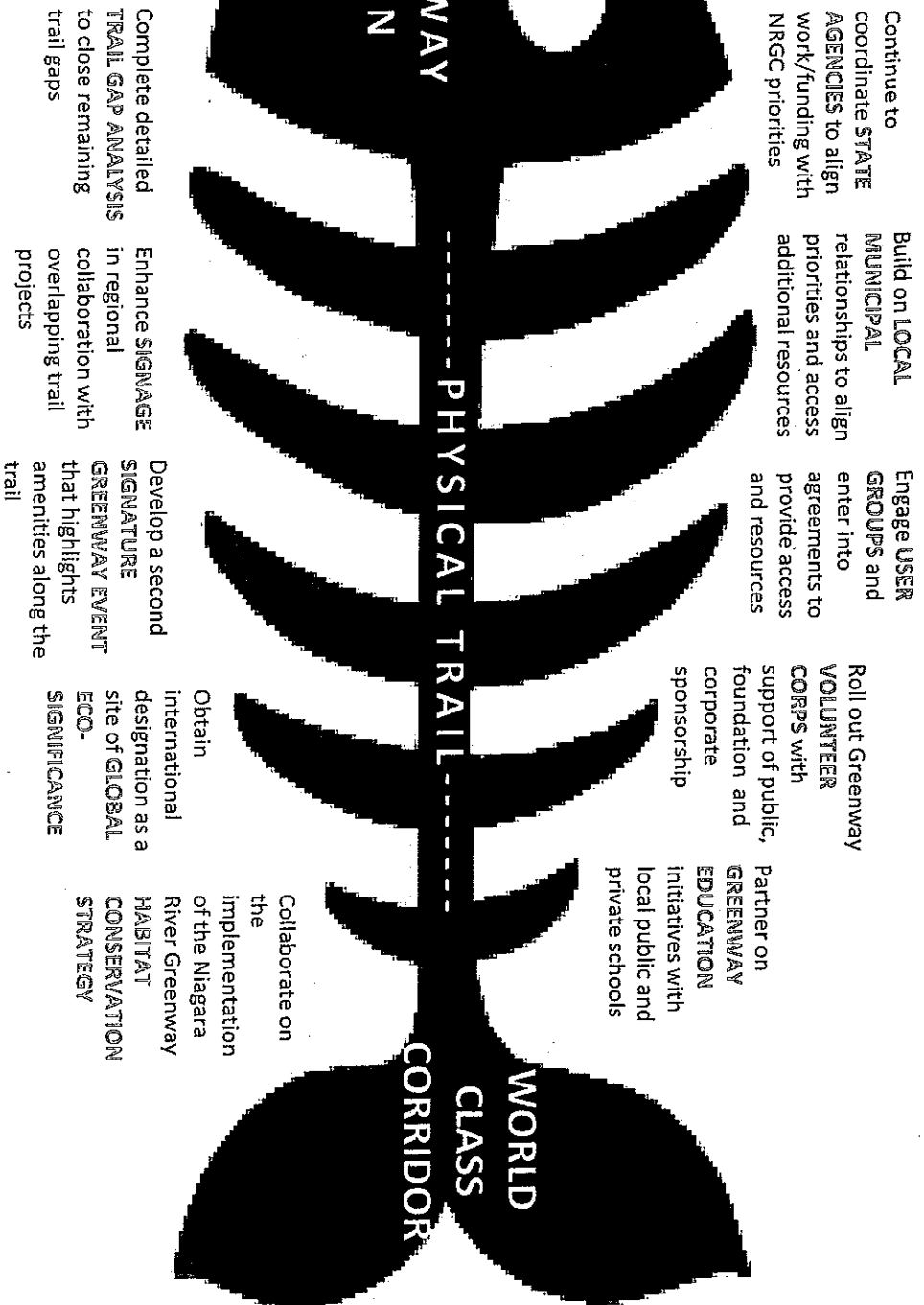
Public Engagement

- Engage with Buffalo
Public Schools to
implement a water-
focused school program
- Develop a robust
Volunteer Corps to
provide trail
maintenance



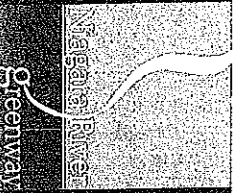
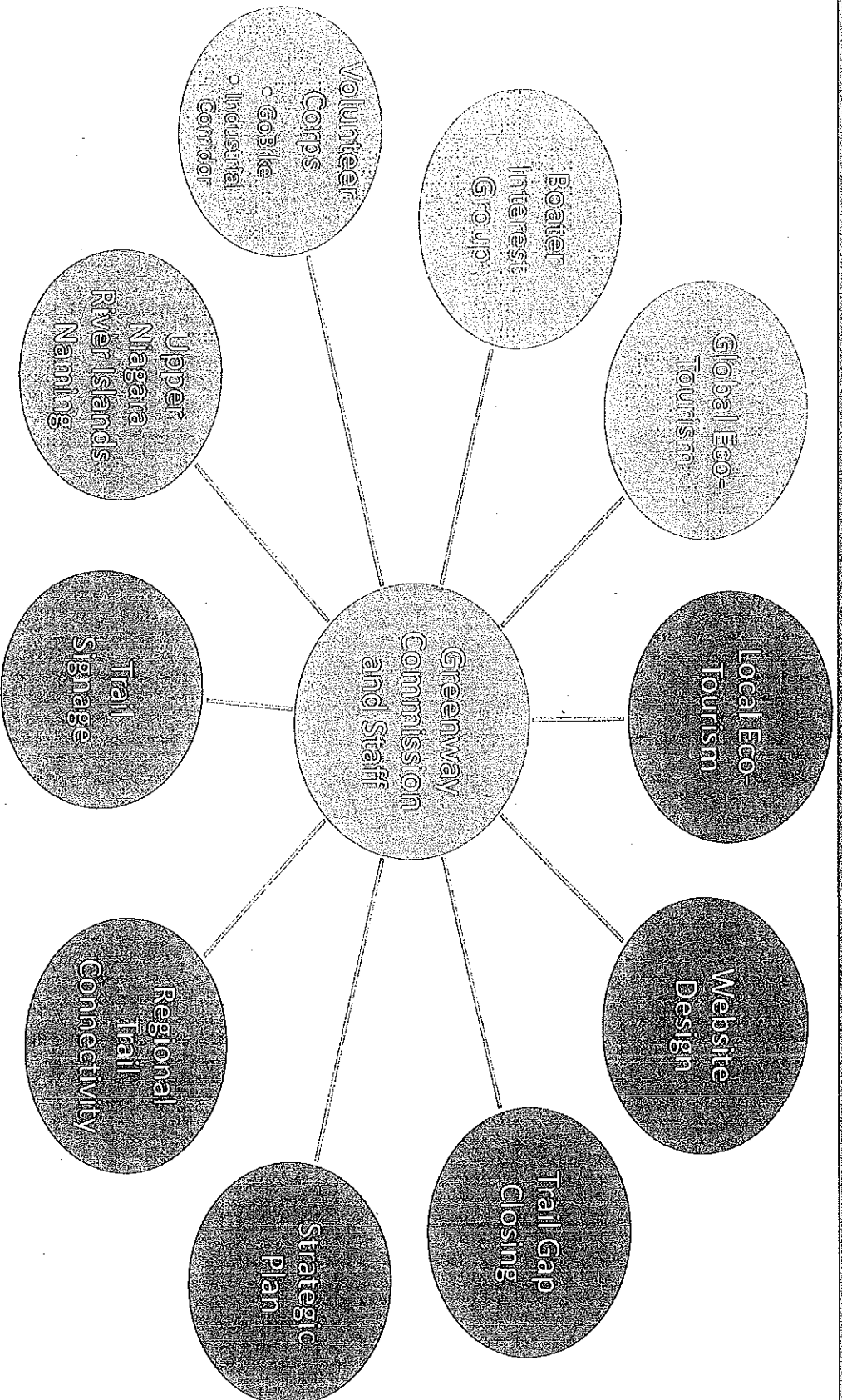
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STRATEGIC PLAN



niagaragreenway.org

PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER ROUNDTABLES



niagaragreenway.org

9.2

**NRGC Minutes of
January 16, 2018
(Informational Only)**

MEMORANDUM

Samuel M. Ferraro
Commissioner

TO: Samuel M. Ferraro, Commissioner, Niagara County Dept. of Economic Development

FROM: Benjamin J. Bidell, Senior Planner, Niagara County Dept. of Economic Development

DATE: January 18, 2018

RE: Niagara River Greenway Commission meeting held January 16, 2018

The Niagara River Greenway Commission (NRGC) met at 3:00 pm in the New York State Parks office in DeVeaux Woods State Park, Niagara Falls. The following NRGC members were in attendance:

- Greg Stevens, Chairman
- Richard Soluri, Vice Chairman
- Sean Edwards, Treasurer
- Sam Magavern, Commissioner
- Joe Emminger, Commissioner
- Steve Broderick, Commissioner
- Lou Paonessa for the New York Power Authority (NYPA)
- Mark Thomas for the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)
- Tim DePriest for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
- Ron Hayes for the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Chris Bauer for the NYS Department of State (DOS)
- Lynn Marinelli for Empire State Development (ESD)

The Greenway Commission's Executive Director position is currently vacant. No information was provided regarding the time frame for filling the position. There were approximately 20 people at the meeting including project sponsors and members of the public. The meeting agenda is attached.

Announcements:

The Buffalo and Erie County Greenway Standing Committee has revised its meeting schedule and project submission deadlines.

Public Comments (agenda items):

Jo Johnson from Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper provided comments on behalf of the Niagara Relicensing Environmental Coalition (NREC). NREC finds the Buffalo State College Floating Classroom project consistent with the Greenway Plan, but suggests including an adult learning component and identifying funding sources beyond year two of the project. NREC finds the Cazenovia Community Resource Center Breakwater Bay project not consistent with the Greenway Plan based on the need for better site drawings, questions about public access to buildings and docks, and lack of ecological considerations. NREC finds the City of Niagara Falls Frederick Douglas Memorial Plaza project consistent with the Greenway Plan, but cautions against overusing Greenway funds for statuary. NREC finds the WNY Land Conservancy Habitat Certification Program not consistent with the Greenway Plan due to the

diffuse nature of the project. NREC finds the WNY Land Conservancy Land Protection Program consistent with the Greenway Plan, but suggests project sponsors seek funding from multiple sources instead of relying on Greenway funding. NREC finds the Vision Niagara Illuminating History and Connectivity for the Niagara Street Corridor project consistent with the Greenway Plan as it promotes connectivity to the waterfront, but suggests looking at the carbon footprint of the project.

Project Review and Vote:

Buffalo State College - Floating Classroom. Susan McCartney, Director of Business Development at Buffalo State College, was present to give an overview of the project and answer questions from the board. This project involves a request by Buffalo State College for a two-year funding commitment from the Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee to purchase and outfit a pontoon boat for use as a floating classroom for college classes. The vessel will operate from the Buffalo State College Great Lakes Center located in Buffalo on the upper Niagara River. Project sponsors did not indicate how much Greenway funding would be requested. The total project cost is \$328,825 in Year 1 and \$212,021 in Year 2, inclusive of all vessel acquisition, personnel, dockage, educational materials, and equipment expenses. Mr. Soluri suggested the possibility of also operating on the lower Niagara River. Mr. Paonessa suggested programming be expanded to provide greater public and community access. Mr. DePriest commented this is the first Greenway project dedicated exclusively to educational programming. The project was unanimously determined consistent with the Greenway Plan.

Cazenovia Community Resource Center - Breakwater Bay. Pierre Wallinder, Director of the Cazenovia Community Resource Center, and Sam Savarino, Partner in 1515 Fuhrmann Boulevard LLC, were present to give an overview of the project and answer questions from the board. This project involves a request by the Cazenovia Community Resource Center (CCRC) for approximately \$750,000 in Greenway funding through the Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee to construct a publicly accessible boating and recreational area. CCRC will lease a portion of the 1515 Fuhrmann Blvd. site. The project includes plans for a community building, boat slips and boat rentals, mooring areas and dinghy docks, restored boat ramp, improved pathways, campfire areas, greenspace, marina office, mobile comfort station with restrooms and showers, electric charging stations, and bike racks. The total project cost is \$1.5 million. Mr. Magavern asked about plans for parking and Mr. Savarino said all structures on site will be temporary, so parking requirements and improvements will be minimal. The parking area is currently gravel. Mr. DePriest commented that CCRC successfully completed two projects funding by the Greenway Ecological Standing Committee and said this project could potentially serve as a model for how privately held lands can be opened up for public access. The project was unanimously determined consistent with the Greenway Plan.

City of Niagara Falls - Frederick Douglas Memorial Plaza. Tom DeSantis, Director of Planning and Development for the City of Niagara Falls, was present to give an overview of the project and answer questions from the board. This project involves a request by the City of Niagara Falls to use \$280,000 from its share of Greenway funding through the Host Communities Standing Committee to construct a statue of Frederick Douglas at the Niagara Falls Municipal Complex, 1925 Main Street, Niagara Falls. The Municipal Complex is located near the historic First Congregational Church of Niagara Falls where Frederick Douglass delivered a speech advocating abolition in 1856. It is also within walking distance of the restored historic U.S. Customhouse, which will house the Underground Railroad Interpretive Center and Harriet Tubman Memorial Plaza, as well as the site of the Niagara Falls Suspension Bridge, which was the final crossing point on the Underground Railroad for fugitives seeking freedom in Canada. The project is a key component of the historical interpretation of the Niagara River Greenway, Niagara Falls National Heritage Area, and the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Area. Mr. Magavern suggested strengthening linkages to other Underground Railroad memorials throughout the Greenway. The project was unanimously determined consistent with the Greenway Plan.

WNY Land Conservancy - Habitat Certification Program. Nancy Smith, Executive Director of the Western New York Land Conservancy, was present to give an overview of the project and answer questions from the board. This project involves a request by the Land Conservancy for \$450,000 in Greenway funding through the Greenway Ecological Standing Committee to implement a habitat certification program. The program will educate and guide landowners in how to landscape with native species, establish and maintain habitat for indigenous wildlife, maintain landscape using best practices, utilize landscape for stormwater and water quality improvements, and control invasive species. The program will focus on properties surrounding protected parks, nature preserves, waterways, and public trails in or near the Greenway Focus Area, but will be available to properties throughout the Greenway. Signage on certified properties will highlight the program and bring attention to the Greenway. The total project cost is \$552,000 for a three-year program. Mr. Magavern suggested the program have a tighter geographic focus within the Greenway to maximize impact. Mr. Paonessa said the project does not result in any physical investment in the Greenway, which Ms. Smith explained will come from private property owners. Mr. Paonessa asked how the program differs from Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper programs and Ms. Smith explained Waterkeeper has undertaken projects directly in partnership with landowners where this program is undertaken by property owners themselves. The project was determined consistent with the Greenway Plan by majority vote with NYPA voting not consistent.

WNY Land Conservancy - Land Protection Program. JaJean Rose-Burney, Deputy Executive Director for the Western New York Land Conservancy, was present to give an overview of the project and answer questions from the board. This project involves a request by the Land Conservancy for \$140,000 in Greenway funding through the Greenway Ecological Standing Committee to implement a land protection program. The Land Conservancy will reach out proactively to identify landowners interested in voluntarily protecting and conserving their properties through fee simple purchase, conservation easements, and other mechanisms. The program will initially target landowners on Grand Island, along the lower Niagara River, along the Niagara Escarpment, and near the North Tonawanda Audubon Nature Preserve/Klydel Wetlands. The total project cost is \$145,000 for the first year, which will target one community. Mr. Magavern suggested the program have a tighter geographic focus within the Greenway to maximize impact. Mr. Paonessa commented the project appears to be a request for a study. Mr. DePriest said it is unrealistic to acquire all of the land in the Greenway, so the involvement of private property owners in land protection is critical. Mr. Paonessa and Mr. Thomas commented the program potentially gives broad approval to conservation projects without need for future NRGCC oversight. The project was unanimously determined consistent with the Greenway Plan.

Vision Niagara - Illuminating History and Connectivity for the Niagara Street Corridor. Barbara Rowe, President of Vision Niagara, Inc., was present to give an overview of the project and answer questions from the board. This project involves a request by Vision Niagara for Greenway funding through the Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee for a feasibility study to light historic bridges and waterfront connections along Niagara Street in the City of Buffalo. Vision Niagara is a not-for-profit community based organization dedicated to revitalization of the Niagara Street corridor. The project will build off existing lighting projects such as the grain silos at Canalside and Peace Bridge. Mr. Paonessa said matching funds should be secured for the project. Mr. Thomas commented on the need to coordinate closely with the DOT, which owns the structures and Ms. Rowe said they will be working with CSX, as well. Mr. Magavern said the project should be explicit about energy efficiency and also look at marketing, public awareness, and Greenway connections. Mr. Hayes said the Transportation Enhancement Program funded the Peace Bridge lighting, so funding opportunities exist for this type of project. The project was unanimously determined consistent with the Greenway Plan.

New Business:

No new business was discussed.

Public Comments (open topics):

There were no public comments on open topics.

Next Meeting:

The next Niagara River Greenway Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 3:00 pm. A Greenway Commission business meeting will take place beforehand at 2:00 pm. The meeting location is to-be-determined.



79th Niagara River Greenway Commission Meeting

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

3:00 p.m.

DeVeaux Woods State Park, Niagara Falls

1. **Call to order:** *Chairman Stevens*
 - a. Roll Call
2. **Announcements**
 - a. Greenway Commission Member
3. **Public Comment:** *Current Agenda Items Only* (3-minute limit)
4. **Project Review and Vote:** *Full Commission* (Presentations limited to 7 minutes)
 - Buffalo State College floating classroom
 - Cazenovia Community Resource Center breakwater bay project
 - City of Niagara Falls Frederick Douglass Memorial Plaza
 - WNY Land Conservancy nature's habitat certification program
 - WNY Land Conservancy Greenway land protection program
 - Vision Niagara illuminating history and connectivity for Niagara Street corridor
5. **New Business**
6. **Public Comment:** *Open Topics* (3-minute limit)
7. **Adjourn**

Next Niagara River Greenway Commission Meeting:

March 20, 2018