



To: Niagara Falls City Council
From: Niagara Falls Community Development
Date: May 09, 2018
Re: Memorandum of Understanding – Niagara Falls City School District
(Hyde and Liberty Parks Programming)

In March 2018, the Niagara Falls City Council voted to accept a \$120,000 competitive grant, applied for by the Community Development Department, from the New York State Health Foundation to partially fund the Hyde Park Inclusionary Play Project installation and youth programming at both Hyde Park and Liberty (“Big Lou” Sirianni) Park. The funding will be allocated, as follows:

\$50,000 – Installation of Hyde Park Inclusionary Play Playground
\$70,000 – Summer youth programming at Hyde and Liberty Parks

The City of Niagara Falls will partner with the Niagara Falls City School District, EMPOWER and the community at large, to plan summer events focused on community health, free play and the creation of opportunities for children/families with special mobility and behavioral needs. These two parks will act as educational satellites for events and activities, open to all city residents. While this grant focuses on two specific parks, this program is part of a city-wide strategy of park investment and youth-centric activities.

The grant also provides the opportunity to partner with neighborhood liaisons and execute a Niagara Falls City School District Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) and physical education curriculum in the summer months. This project does not require any new or additional local matching dollars, as we leveraged the Community Development Block Grant investments at both parks, guided by the 2017 Participatory Budgeting (PB 360) Process.

Per the terms of the grant award, the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Niagara Falls City School District will provide \$8,000 to fund a Summer Youth Programming Coordinator. The person selected to fill this position will be a New York State-certified teacher, consistent with the district’s summer programming compensation rates. Any unused funds will be dedicated to 2019 programming as the New York State Health Foundation grant follows a two year cycle. The role of the coordinator will be to schedule, promote, attend, and report on evaluation data for all events in the months of July through September. In addition she/he will create, coordinate and execute STEAM and physical education curriculum at the parks.

The Niagara Falls City School District will post this job opportunity, per its summer employment posting process, upon approval from the Niagara Falls City Council and Niagara Falls City School Board.

Will the Council vote to so approve and authorize the Mayor to execute the MOU with the Niagara Falls City School District, in a form acceptable to the Corporation Counsel?

Paul Dyster, Mayor

Nick Melson, City Administrator

Seth Piccirillo, Director
Niagara Falls Community Development

Kennedy Scott Tompkins Voccio Touma