



City of Niagara Falls, New York

P.O. Box 69, Niagara Falls, NY 14302-0069

Waterfront Advisory Committee Introductory Meeting Summary

May 19th, 2022 – 3:00 PM

1. Introductions to the Committee

- a. Went around the table so that everyone could introduce themselves
- b. Planning Department members introduced themselves and explained why each member was selected to be a part of the committee
 - i. Many members have helped develop relevant plans in the past (business plans, park master plan, etc..)
 - ii. Planning Department is looking for committee members to bring their strong connection to different parts of the community to the table

2. Brief History of LWRP in Niagara Falls

- a. Discussed the City's past experience with developing a LWRP, two were developed in 1985 and 2004, however, neither were approved by City Council
- b. Despite not adopting the last two LWRP's many of the proposed projects in them have already been completed
 - i. Griffon Park
 - ii. Removal of the Robert Moses Parkway
 - iii. Environmental remediation
 - iv. Bike/Ped connectivity
- c. We want to be bold and truly improve the City's waterfront, however we also need to make sure that it is adopted to receive the benefits of developing a LWRP

3. Objectives of the Program Plan

- a. Objectives discussed:
 - i. Develop a vision for the waterfront and what the means to accomplish it are
 - ii. How to best utilize local input
 - iii. How to provide better public access to the water
 - iv. Prevent the displacement of water dependent use and support their future growth
 - v. Build upon recent developments on the waterfront
 - vi. Promote economic development
- b. Conversation was had on what the LWRP Boundary would be:
 - i. Art Jocoy noted that there is not much waterfront in the city that is not already developed. Also sought clarification if waterfront meant exclusively where the water and land meet
 - ii. Buffalo's LWRP was brought up and how they changed their LWRP boundary to include many of the City's parks and some neighborhoods that were not directly on the waterfront.

4. Responsibilities of the Committee

- a. Responsibilities expected of the committee that were discussed:
 - i. Managing the planning process and advising the consultants
 - ii. Provide input on waterfront issues and conditions
 - iii. Hold public input meetings
 - iv. Inform community members about the process and how to be involved
 - v. Review and comments on LWRP drafts

5. Schedule and Process

- a. Discussed timeline for completion (~ November 2025)
- b. First step is to release the RFP and find a consultant
 - i. Selected three WAC members to help grade consultant proposals
 1. Paul Ray (ESD)
 2. Chris Ramos (TM Montante)
 3. Mark Mistretta (NYS Parks)
- c. Second step is to develop the community outreach plan
- d. Third, consultants will examine existing conditions and develop goals. WAC members will provide input throughout process
- e. Fourth, establish goals and projects. WAC members will also provide input for this.
- f. Lastly, review and adopt LWRP
- g. Mark Mistretta raised the concern on what the best approach for the LWRP is considering monetary constraints
 - i. Is it better to just make sure the LWRP is finished and do engineering design documents later or do we push for documents to be made for a specific set of projects?

6. Adjourn

- a. Next meeting will be ~ three months from now once a consultant is selected
- b. Asked WAC members to start thinking which stakeholders to include in the process
- c. Think of ways to best reach residents and tourists who regularly use the waterfront