



# City of Niagara Falls, New York

745 Main Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14301

## MEETING SUMMARY

Date of Meeting: Thursday, May 25, 2023

Time of Meeting: 2:00PM – 3:30PM

Location: City Hall Council Chambers

Attendees: Waterfront Advisory Committee (WAC) members or alternates

Louis Paonessa, New York Power Authority

Eryn Iacovitti, New York State Parks

Jill Shuey, Niagara University

Gary Siddall, Aquarium of Niagara

Christian Campos, TM Montante Development

Nirel Patel, Rupal Hospitality

Michael Marsch, Merani Hotel Group (virtual)

Jack Goeddertz, La Salle Yacht Club (virtual)

City of Niagara Falls representatives

Mayor Robert Restaino

Kevin Forma, Director of Planning

Edyta Chorostkowska, Environmental Planner

Consulting Team

Samuel Gordon, EDR

Susan Caruvana, EDR

Tanya Zwahlen, Highland Planning

Julia Hayden, Highland Planning

Sean Hare, MKSK Studios

Jenny Mogavero, Prospect Hill

Mike Kane, Prospect Hill

New York State Department of State (NYS DOS)

Valeria Ivan, Coastal Resources Specialist (virtual)

Absent: WAC members

Art Jocoy, Cayuga Island resident

Lisa Routhier, Sunshine Café

**RE: Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) Project Kickoff Meeting Meeting Summary**

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Items Discussed:

1. Mayor Restaino provided opening remarks.
2. Kevin Forma welcomed the WAC members and introduced the consultant team.
3. Sam Gordon led the presentation (attached), with input from the consultant team. Introductions were made by every person present.



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4. Waterfront Revitalization Area (WRA) map is available for viewing and commenting by the WAC members. The initial map was designed with connections to the waterfront in mind; it is an expansion from the existing coastal boundary zone, and includes the Gill Creek corridor, Cayuga Creek corridor, Love Canal and up to La Salle Expressway.
  - a. WAC members will need to review the map and provide commentary by a certain deadline.
  - b. There are limited connections between Main Street and the waterfront along the western spine. Connections will need to be added.
5. The 3-year timeline for the entire process seems lengthy.
  - a. EDR indicated that the timeline is long but it is realistic. The first year will be the more intensive, consisting of information gathering, public outreach and drafting. There are mandated review timelines by the DOS at every stage of the process.
6. There were concerns about the increased permitting process when the LWRP is adopted.
  - a. NYS DOS and City Council will need to adopt the LWRP. Once adopted, this plan will need to be followed regardless of the political environment.
  - b. Permitting process would be a Consistency Review, which is similar to the SEQR process. It would be conducted along with a Site Plan Review process when submitting a project to the City. Intention of the review is to ensure the project is consistent with the plans laid out in the LWRP.
  - c. LWRP will unlock funding for projects within the WRA.

## Action Items:

1. WAC members to review current WRA boundaries online, and provide commentary. Deadline to be provided.
2. City to coordinate availability with all participants for upcoming meeting in June.
3. Consultant team to begin public outreach process and initiate next steps.