

HOST COMMUNITIES

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015 – 12:00 p.m.

Niagara County Department of Economic Development

6311 Inducon Corporate Drive
Sanborn, New York 14132

Representatives Present:

Cynthia Bianco, Superintendent / Chairperson, HCSC
Paul Casseri, Superintendent
Lou Paonessa
William L. Ross, Chairman, NC Legislature
Scott Hapeman, Superintendent
Lee Wallace, Supervisor
Dennis Brochey, Supervisor
Thomas O'Donnell, Esq.

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:

Bernie Rotella
Thomas Burgasser, Esq.
Kevin O'Brien
Robert Cliffe, Supervisor
Jackie Siegmann

Town of Lewiston
Niagara County
Niagara County – Adaptive Paddle Sport
Town of Wheatfield – River Road Trail
Town of Niagara

Staff Present:

Mary Melloni, Recording Secretary
Stan Widger, Esq., NPC Counsel, Nixon Peabody
John Baird, Treasurer, NPC
Samuel M. Ferraro, Executive Director/Commissioner - Niagara County Center for Economic Development

1.0 Call to Order

Chairperson Bianco called the Host Communities Standing Committee meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

2.0 Roll Call

Ms. Melloni called the roll. A quorum was met

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Cynthia Bianco led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 Introductions

5.0 Approval of Meeting Minutes of June 2, 2015

Mr. O'Donnell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wallace, to approve the meeting minutes of June 2, 2015.
Motion passed.

6.0 Presentation: 3-Year Audit of Host Community Standing Committee – *Patrick Brown, Brown & Company*

Mr. Brown gave an overview of the 3-year Audit of the Host Community Standing Committee, a copy of which will be attached hereto and become a part hereof these minutes.

7.0 Niagara County

7.1 **Proposed Adaptive Paddle Sport Launch System, Pendleton West Canal Marina & Park** **- Kevin O'Brien, Commissioner of Public Works** **(Determined Consistent by NRCG on 7/21/2015; Approved for funding in the amount of \$31,500 by Niagara County on 8/04/2015)**

The Niagara County Parks Department is proposing to improve waterfront access and recreational opportunities offered to the community at the West Canal Marina and Park site. The 30-acre park serves as a marina, parkland and a natural open space and is open to all residents, youth groups. It is an ideal setting for hiking, nature study, wildlife and conservation training, camping, kayaking, boating, canoeing, soccer, archery and more.

The current proposal is the installation of a kayak, canoe launch and special access fishing dock. The existing site conditions are ideal by dedicating one boat launch ramp, creating a safer and handicap accessible pathway. This launch facility will serve as a training venue for scouts to earn their merit badges for kayaking and canoeing; it also serves a safe harbor and creates additional recreational options along Tonawanda Creek.

Mr. Widger stated that this project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mr. Ross and seconded by Mr. O'Donnell, to approve the request for funding in the amount of \$31,500 for the Adaptive Paddle Sport Launch project.

A roll call vote was taken.

<i>Town of Lewiston</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>Town of Niagara</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>Lewiston Porter</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>City of Niagara Falls</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>Niagara-Wheatfield</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>Niagara County</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>New York Power Authority</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>Niagara Falls Schools</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>

The resolution was thereupon approved.

7.2 **Wheatfield River Road Trail – Phase 2 – Robert Cliffe, Supervisor, Town of Wheatfield** **(NRCG determined consistent on 7/21/15; Niagara County funding in the amount of \$70,000 on 8/04/15)**

Mr. Cliffe explained that the Town of Wheatfield River Road Trail Project is a \$2,967,102 construction project that will complete the River Road Trail that will connect Gratwick Park in North Tonawanda with Griffon Park in Niagara Falls. It is located along the Niagara River Greenway (Seaway Trail) on River Road. This trail will create a continuous trail linking the three communities and provide greater connectivity and continuity of the regional trails system throughout the Niagara River Greenway corridor.

Mr. Widger stated that this project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mr. Ross and seconded by Mr. Wallace, to approve the request for funding in the amount of \$70,000 for the Wheatfield River Road Trail project.

7.2 Wheatfield River Road Trail – Phase 2 (Continued...)

A roll call vote was taken.

<i>Town of Lewiston</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>Town of Niagara</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>Lewiston Porter</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>City of Niagara Falls</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>Niagara-Wheatfield</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>Niagara County</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>New York Power Authority</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>Niagara Falls Schools</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>

The resolution was thereupon approved.

8.0 Town of Niagara

**8.1 Splash Pad at Veterans' Memorial Park – Bernie Rotella
(Approved for funding in the amount of \$353,840 by Niagara Town Board on 7/09/2015;
Determined Consistent by NRCG on 9/15/2015)**

The Town of Niagara is proposing to construct a seasonal Splash Park within Veterans' Memorial Park. Located in the heart of the Town, the park is Niagara's primary destination for organized sports, leisure outdoor recreation, community gatherings and cultural events for residents and visitors of nearby communities.

This project will focus on serving the community's underserved youths by constructing a state-of-the-art Splash Park for season summer months. Located adjacent to the Community Center and main parking area, families with small children will be afforded close, easy access to the new attraction and shelter, as well as restrooms located in the Community Center. The Town of Niagara will support this project by providing power and water to the Splash Park. A line item will be added to the Town's budget for annual operation and maintenance.

Mr. Widger stated that this project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mr. Brochey and seconded by Mr. Hapeman, to approve the request for funding in the amount of \$353,840 for the Splash Park Project.

A roll call vote was taken.

<i>Town of Lewiston</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>Town of Niagara</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>Lewiston Porter</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>City of Niagara Falls</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>Niagara-Wheatfield</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>Niagara County</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>New York Power Authority</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>Niagara Falls Schools</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>

The resolution was thereupon approved.

9.0 Town of Lewiston

**9.1 Kiwanis Park Courts Restoration Project 2015 – B. Rotella/M. Dashineau
(Approved for funding in the amount of \$45,000 by Lewiston Town Board on 3/09/2015;
Determined Consistent by NRCG on 9/15/2015)**

The Kiwanis Park project will consist of refurbishing existing basketball and tennis courts by adding new backboards and tennis posts, crack and warp repair, and new striping and court coloring. Kiwanis Park is a public park located at 940 Oxbow Lane in the Town of Lewiston. The upgrade will enhance the attractiveness and functionality of the rest of the park. It will also enhance the ability of this Park to serve the recreational needs of their respective communities and the Town of Lewiston as a whole.

Mr. Widger stated that this project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mr. Casseri and seconded by Mr. Ross, to approve the request for funding in the amount of \$45,000 for the Kiwanis Park Courts Restoration project.

A roll call vote was taken.

Town of Lewiston	<u>Yes</u>
Town of Niagara	<u>Yes</u>
Lewiston Porter	<u>Yes</u>
City of Niagara Falls	<u>Yes</u>
Niagara-Wheatfield	<u>Yes</u>
Niagara County	<u>Yes</u>
New York Power Authority	<u>Yes</u>
Niagara Falls Schools	<u>Yes</u>

The resolution was thereupon approved.

**9.2 Colonial Village Park Playground Project 2015 – B. Rotella/M. Dashineau
(Approved for funding in the amount of \$ 55,000 by Lewiston Town Board on 3/09/2015;
Determined Consistent by NRCG on 9/15/2015)**

This project involves adding additional playground equipment in this public park in the Town of Lewiston. The park is located less than one-quarter mile from the New York State Power Authority Water Reservoir on Saunders Settlement Road, adjacent to Lewiston Fire Company #2. It is an important facility for both fire company functions as well as for public and community use.

Mr. Widger stated that this project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mr. Wallace and seconded by Mr. Ross, to approve the request for funding in the amount of \$55,000 for the Colonial Village Park Playground project.

A roll call vote was taken.

Town of Lewiston	<u>Yes</u>
Town of Niagara	<u>Yes</u>
Lewiston Porter	<u>Yes</u>
City of Niagara Falls	<u>Yes</u>
Niagara-Wheatfield	<u>Yes</u>
Niagara County	<u>Yes</u>
New York Power Authority	<u>Yes</u>
Niagara Falls Schools	<u>Yes</u>

The resolution was thereupon approved.

**9.3 Academy Park Ice Rink – Additional Funding - B. Rotella/M. Dashineau
(Determined Consistent by NRGC on 9/20/2011; Requesting Additional Funding in the amount of \$126,640)**

Previous Funding Requests:

10/04/2011 -	\$134,000 (Original Request)
1/14/2013 -	\$156,640 (2012 Lease Payment)
12/03/2013 -	\$156,640 (2013 Lease Payment)
9/30/2014 -	\$205,220 (2014 – Lease Buyout)

Additional funding in the amount of \$126,640 is being requested for Operations, waste removal, advertising, utilities, setup, breakdown and maintenance of the rink, and special events. Questions were raised regarding whether this would be considered operation and maintenance costs and whether this is permissible. Mr. Widger stated that the Host Community Relicensing Settlement Agreement does not preclude operation and maintenance. Section 7 governing HCSC funding does permit operations & Maintenance on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, HCSC can look at O & M and determine if it is appropriate on a specific project.

Mr. Widger stated that with respect to the scope of NRGC approvals, other projects have come back for increases in funding from their original budget. NRGC’s role is to determine if a project is consistent. The issue of financial arrangements are of little significance to the NRGC—this committee is responsible to determine if the funding is appropriate.

After much discussion, it was decided that the \$5,000 for “Special Events” would be removed from the budget.

Mr. Widger stated that this project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mr. Wallace and seconded by Mr. Ross, to approve the request for funding in the amount of \$121,640 for the Academy Park Ice Rink Project.

A roll call vote was taken.

<i>Town of Lewiston</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>Town of Niagara</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>Lewiston Porter</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>City of Niagara Falls</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>Niagara-Wheatfield</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>Niagara County</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>New York Power Authority</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>
<i>Niagara Falls Schools</i>	<u><i>Yes</i></u>

The resolution was thereupon approved.

The presenters for the following project were invited by the County to present at this meeting; however, the HCSC was not notified and therefore cannot act on this project until they are able to review the proposal. It was decided that they could still present their project and it will be acted on at the December 1st meeting.

**Riviera Theatre Expansion Project– Gary Rouleau/Jim Pritchard
(Determined Consistent by NRCG on 7/21/2015; Approved for funding in the amount of \$50,000 by Niagara County Legislature on 8/04/2015)**

The Riviera Theatre is located in the heart of the City of North Tonawanda and within walking distance of the Niagara River and Erie Canal. It provides a cultural, historical and heritage destination within the twin cities of Tonawanda and North Tonawanda. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and after more than 80 years of its original construction, is the most diverse arts venue in Niagara County. Expansion plans call for the construction of a new 20,000 s.f. facility directly adjacent to the Theatre. The new facility will include the following amenities: 2,000 s.f. black box theatre for local and regional artistic performances; a 1,860 s.f. rehearsal/banquet hall to host community events; a kitchen for patrons and performers; increased toilet facilities, including handicapped accessible facilities; expanded changing rooms and private performers space to attract national performing acts; and increased storage and office space.

The presenters will attend the December 1st meeting of the HCSC, at which time the project will be voted on.

10. Any Other Matters

10.1 Minutes of NRCG Meetings: July 21, 2015 & September 15, 2015 (Informational Only)

11. Next Meeting: December 1, 2015 - 12:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Mary P. Melloni
Recording Secretary