

**HOST COMMUNITIES
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, April 16, 2013 - 12:00 p.m.

Niagara County Department of Economic Development

6311 Inducon Corporate Drive
Sanborn, New York 14132

Representatives Present:

Don Rappold, Asst. Superintendent – Chairman, HCSC
Cynthia Bianco, Superintendent
Tom O’Donnell, Esq.
Lou Paonessa
William L. Ross, Chairman, NC Legislature
Scott Hapeman, Esq.
Jackie Siegmann
Mike Johnson

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

Guests:

Thomas Burgasser, Esq.
Angelo Massaro, Esq.
Chris Roser, Superintendent
Earl Smeal
John Forcucci
Mark Laurrie
Ron Anderluh
Ashley Wood
Delbert Ambrosia
Michael Risman, Esq.

Niagara County
Niagara Falls City School District
Lewiston-Porter School District
Niagara Falls City School District
Niagara Falls City School District
Niagara Falls City School District
Niagara Street Business Association
Niagara Wheatfield School District
Niagara Wheatfield School District
Town of Niagara

Staff Present:

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

1.0 Call to Order

Chairman Rappold called the Host Communities Standing Committee meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

2.0 Roll Call

Ms. Melloni called the roll; a quorum was established.

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Rappold led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 HCSC Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2013

Mr. O’Donnell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hapeman, to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2013 meeting.

5.0 Project Presentations

5.1 Niagara Falls School District

5.1.1 City School District of the City of Niagara Falls Recreational-Athletic Fields & Field House

(Resolution passed by NF Board of Education on 8/9/12 and subsequent Proposition passed by election on 9/25/12; Determined Not Consistent by NRCG on 3/19/13)

Mark Laurrie addressed the Committee: He explained that since September 26, 2013 a team of District people have been working very hard on a project that will serve 60% of the 7,000 students who play municipal athletics. Once the students are finished using the facilities, they will be turned over as they are now, to the community. Mr. Laurrie explained that this is not only a partnership with designers, architects and construction workers in the community, it is also a partnership in that the funding source for the \$66 million project is at no expense to the taxpayer because of the school's high-needs district status and because of a grant and the hope that the Greenway funding will be supported.

He explained that Mr. Forcucci has been working with the NFL who have taken an interest in their project and are looking at a \$200,000 grant to supplement some of the work.

Mr. Smeal then made a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed project.

Mr. Ross stated that the project will be a great complement to a great venue that the City already has at Hyde Park. With these two venues, there will be one of the best recreational sports venues and green space areas in Western New York. He also stated that he is an advocate for synthetic turf because with reduced school monies today they cannot afford maintenance staff to keep up grass fields.

Mr. Burgasser asked how long their lease with the City of Niagara Falls is for the property involved in this project. It was stated that the lease is for 99 years.

Mr. Widger indicated that the City of Niagara Falls School District has met all the procedural requirements to bring this to a vote.

5.0 Project Presentations

5.1 Niagara Falls School District (Continued...)

5.1.1 City School District of the City of Niagara Falls Recreational-Athletic Fields & Field House

Mr. Reiter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ross, to approve funding in the amount of \$11 million for the City School District of the City of Niagara Falls Recreational-Athletic Fields & Field House Project.

“WHEREAS, the *City School District of the City of Niagara Falls*, has applied to the Host Communities Standing Committee to approve funding in the amount of **\$11 million** for the *City School District of the City of Niagara Falls Recreational-Athletic Fields & Field House Project*; and WHEREAS, this project was submitted to the Niagara River Greenway Commission for consultation. WHEREAS, the Host Communities Standing Committee finds the project to be consistent with the Greenway Plan. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Host Communities Standing Committee that the amount of **\$11 million** for the *City School District of the City of Niagara Falls Recreational-Athletic Fields & Field House Project* is approved; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution is to be forwarded to First Niagara Bank.”

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 duly adopted.

**5.1.2 Gill Creek Park Improvement Project
(Determined Consistent by NRG on 1/18/11; HCSC approval on 2/01/11;
Repositioning the project at this time – R. Anderluh**

Mr. Anderluh of the Niagara Street Business Association addressed the Committee. He explained that this project was originally approved for \$102,000. The Niagara River Keepers and City of Niagara Falls changed the parameters of the project, indicating that the paths had to be wider for wheelchair accessibility, etc. These changes increased the cost of the project and the project was put on hold. It was decided that since Niagara Street School has no room for a playground and has approximately 650 students, that the need for a playground was great in that area.

5.0 Project Presentations

5.1 Niagara Falls School District (Continued...)

5.1.2 Gill Creek Park Improvement Project

The school board agreed to reconsider the nature trail and approved a playground. They will be receiving \$60,000 in HUD Community funds, therefore, the request is now for \$60,000 for the Park improvement Project.

Ms. Bianco made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ross, to approve funding in the amount of \$60,000.00 for the Gill Creek Park Improvement Project.

“WHEREAS, the **City of Niagara Falls School District**, has applied to the Host Communities Standing Committee to approve funding in the amount of **\$60,00.00** for the **Gill Creek Park Improvement Project**; and WHEREAS, this project was submitted to the Niagara River Greenway Commission for consultation. WHEREAS, the Host Communities Standing Committee finds the project to be consistent with the Greenway Plan. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Host Communities Standing Committee that the funding in the amount of **\$60,00.00** for the **Gill Creek Park Improvement Project** is approved; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution is forwarded to First Niagara Bank.”

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 duly adopted.

6.0 Niagara River Greenway Commission (Informational Only)

6.1 Minutes of January 15, 2013 NRG Meeting

Provided as informational only.

5.0 **Next HCSC Meeting: Tuesday, June 4, 2013 (if needed)**

6.0 **Adjournment**

Ms. Bianco made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ross, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary P. Melloni
Recording Secretary