

**HOST COMMUNITIES**

**STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, June 2, 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  
Chris Roser, Superintendent/Vice Chairperson, HCSC  
Carol J. Sampson  
William L. Ross, Chairman, NC Legislature  
Scott Hapeman, Esq.  
Lee Wallace, Supervisor  
Dennis Brochey  
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:**

Angelo Massaro, Esq.  
Thomas Burgasser, Esq.  
Michael Risman, Esq.  
Mark Laurrie  
Earl Smeal  
Tony Miceli, LP Ciminelli  
Jackie Siegmann  
Sherry Shepherd-Corulli  
Patti Grupl

Niagara Falls City School District  
Niagara County  
Town of Niagara  
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City of Niagara Falls  
Lewiston Porter School District

**Staff Present:**

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

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**1.0 Call to Order**

Chairperson Bianco called the Host Communities Standing Committee meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

**2.0 Roll Call**

Ms. Melloni called the roll.

**3.0 Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairperson Cynthia Bianco led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4.0 Introductions**

**5.0 Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2015**

Mr. Roser made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hapeman, to approve the meeting minutes of March 24, 2015. Motion passed.

**Chairman Bianco changed the order of the agenda, asking that Item 7.0 be addressed first, as these individuals need to return to work.**

**7.0 Any Other Matters**

**7.1 Niagara Falls High School Recreational Complex – Mark Laurrie, Deputy Superintendent**

Mr. Laurrie stated that this presentation is a “thank you” to the Host Communities Standing Committee for their approval of funding for the Recreational Complex at Niagara Falls School District. Mr. Laurrie introduced Mr. Smeal and Mr. Ciminelli who were both heavily involved in the project. Mr. Laurrie stated that the NFSD project has been nominated by Business First for the Best Construction Project of the Year Award. Mr. Laurrie concluded with a brief presentation of the Niagara Falls High School Recreational Complex project.

**6.0 City of Niagara Falls**

**6.1 Hyde Park Shoreline and Upland Improvements – Sherry Shepherd-Corulli  
(Approved for funding in the amount of \$400,000 by Niagara Falls City Council on 5/26/2015;  
Determined Consistent by NRG on 5/19/2015)**

Ms. Shepherd-Corulli explained that the City of Niagara Falls proposes a number of shoreline improvements within Hyde Park to restore riparian and instream habitats, stabilize the banks and improve the quality of Hyde Park Lake. These improvements were also a part of the City’s Master Plan. Also looking at installing a canoe launch and an access road that runs between Robbins Drive and Hyde Park Boulevard. In order to increase recreational opportunities within the park, the City will repair and modify an obsolete paddle boat pier to be used as a fishing dock. The City will be working with the Buffalo Riverkeepers to install a 150 foot living shoreline.

Mr. Ross stated that years ago there was a Gill Creek Re-augmentation project led by then County Legislator Leo Martel. They were going to clean up Hyde Park Lake at the time and they went right up to Gill Creek to attack the problem where it began. He asked if there will be any cleanup of Gill Creek in the future. Ms. Corulli stated that they are hoping that concern might be addressed through a study by the Army Corp of Engineers that will allow us to expand that to go beyond to the source of Gill Creek.

Ms. Sampson of NYPA asked on the City’s budget amount of \$192,000 that you are looking at from other sources (CFA and Fish & Wildlife Foundation), was a pre-proposal submitted to the Fish & Wildlife foundation. Ms. Corulli explained that they were told not to submit to the Fish & Wildlife Foundation, which is why they are seeking funds from CFA. It will be more than \$192,000 as they have approval from the City Council to submit for up to \$500,000.

Mr. Widger stated that this project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mr. O’Donnell and seconded by Mr. Roser, to approve the request for funding in the amount of \$400,000 for the Hyde Park Shoreline and Upland Improvements 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.***

**6.2 Niagara Riverview Trail Improvements 53<sup>rd</sup> Street Node – Sherry Shepherd-Corulli  
(Approved for funding in the amount of \$225,000 by Niagara Falls City Council on 5/26/2015;  
Determined Consistent by NRCG on 5/19/2015)**

Ms. Corulli explained that this project proposes to install trail-side and shoreline improvements on the Niagara Riverview Trail at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Street Node. This node is widely used as a popular fishing spot. The project will include removal of shoreline brush, installation of benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, stone outcroppings, solar lighting, and planting of shade trees. There will be nothing done to the dock itself which is still used by some industries in the area.

Mr. Widger stated that this project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mr. O'Donnell and seconded by Mr. Brochey, to approve the request for funding in the amount of \$225,000 for the Niagara Riverview Trail Improvements 53<sup>rd</sup> Street Node 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.***

**6.3 Griffon Park – Sherry Shepherd-Corulli  
(Determined Consistent by NRCG on 9/20/11; Approved for funding in the amount of \$200,000  
by HCSC on 10/4/2011; approved for additional funding in the amount of \$200,000 by HCSC on  
3/25/2014; Requesting approval for additional funding in the amount of \$450,000)**

This is another phase of the original Griffon Park project. This will be to install a comfort station towards the edge of the parking lot. At this time there is a porta-potty that goes in for the main summer months. But Griffon Park is heavily used by the area boaters for the boat launch as soon as the ice boom comes out, so there is a need for comfort facilities at that site. It is the only free boat launch facility on the Niagara River. The City just recently completed the installation of a handicapped accessible canoe and kayak launch near the boat launches. A playground was installed there with partial funding from the Host Communities Standing Committee.

Mr. Widger explained that it is not necessary for this request to go through the Greenway Commission because what they are requesting now is still considered within the scope of what they originally presented to the Greenway Commission.

Mr. Widger stated that this project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mr. Roser and seconded by Mr. Ross, to approve the request for additional funding in the amount of \$450,000 for the City of Niagara Falls Griffon Park Exhibit 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.***

**6.4 Restoration of Hyde Park Comfort Station & Lounge – Sherry Shepherd-Corulli  
(Determined Consistent by NRGC on 10/16/2010; Approved for funding in the amount of \$200,000 by HCSC on 10/4/2011; Requesting approval for additional funding in the amount of \$75,000)**

Ms. Corulli explained that this project is also being done in phases. The City was fortunate to secure a \$250,000 earmark, an EPF grant with no match that ended up going back to Senator Grizanti. This was just finalized. The Comfort Station and Lounge is a stone building, very old and has been modified several times. It used to be the main source of restroom facilities for park patrons. It was let go for many years due to lack of funding. They are now trying to enhance the facilities and the building that was used for weddings, tournaments, parties. They want to restore the restroom facility so they are useful not only to the users of the building, but also park patrons during the summer months. So far they have put a new roof on the building, installed new windows. The stone interior has been cleaned and repointed, new flooring, and replacement of the ceiling. Now they want to restore all of the restroom areas and also they are looking to replace a storage area with workout rooms and other storage will be used by hockey players as dressing rooms. This also includes installing heating, air conditioning, electrical and plumbing.

Mr. Widger stated that this project meets all procedural requirements. A motion was made by Mr. O'Donnell and seconded by Mr. Hapeman, to approve the request for additional funding in the amount of \$75,000 for the Restoration of Hyde Park Comfort Station & Lounge 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.***

**7.0 Any Other Matters – None.**

**8.0 Next Meeting: July 28, 2015 (if needed)**

**9.0 Adjournment**

Mr. O'Donnell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ross, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary P. Melloni  
Recording Secretary