HOST COMMUNITIES
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 25, 2014 - 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	Niagara Falls City School District
Chris Roser, Superintendent/Vice Chairperson, HCSC	Lewiston Porter School District
Lou Paonessa	New York Power Authority
William L. Ross, Chairman, NC Legislature	Niagara County
Allison Brady, Superintendent	Niagara Wheatfield School District
Jackie Siegmann	Town of Niagara
Dennis Brochey	Town of Lewiston
Thomas O'Donnell, Esq.	City of Niagara Falls

Alternates/Guests:

Brian Melber, Esq.	Niagara Wheatfield School District
Bernie Rotella	Town of Lewiston
Thomas Burgasser, Esq.	Niagara County
Angelo Massaro, Esq.	Niagara Falls City School District
Michael Risman, Esq.	Town of Niagara
Paul Kloosterman	Town of Lewiston

Staff Present:
Mary Melloni, Recording Secretary
Stan Widger, Esq., NPC Counsel, Nixon Peabody
John M. Baird, Treasurer
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 12:10 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

Ms. Bianco introduced Mr. Brian Melber, attending for Scott Hapeman, representing Niagara Wheatfield School District.

5.0 Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2014

Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 11, 2014, seconded by Mr. Ross. Motion passed.

6.0 Project Presentations

6.1 Town of Lewiston

Mr. Rotella explained that all three projects on the agenda for the Town of Lewiston are part of the Town of Lewiston infrastructure for parks. They are part of the overall Master Plan to upgrade the parks. In the past they utilized Greenway funding for Phase I of the improvements to the parks and at that time those projects were voted yes to proceed. These projects were presented at the February 11, 2014 HCSC meeting; however, due to an absence the committee could not reach consensus at that time and the projects have been brought back to the committee for a final vote.

6.1.1 Lewiston Pletcher Road Park Restoration Project – *B. Rotella*

(Town of Lewiston approved funding in amount of $41,000 on 8/09/13; NRGC Determined Consistent on 01/21/14; HCSC did not reach consensus on 2/11/14)

Mr. Widger stated that the project has met the procedural requirements to bring it to a vote. Mr. Ross made a motion to approve the project, seconded by Mr. Roser.

A roll call vote was taken.

Town of Lewiston	*Yes*
Town of Niagara	*Yes*
Lewiston Porter	*Yes*
City of Niagara Falls	*Yes*
Niagara-Wheatfield	*Yes*
Niagara County	*Yes*
New York Power Authority	*No*
Niagara Falls Schools	*Yes*

The resolution was approved.

6.1.2 Sanborn Park Restoration Project – *B. Rotella*

(Town of Lewiston approved funding in amount of $43,500 on 08/09/13; NRGC *"came to a conclusion of a Lost Vote [tie vote]"* on 1/21//14; HCSC did not reach consensus on 2/11/14)

Mr. Widger stated that the project has met the procedural requirements to bring it to a vote. Mr. Roser made a motion to approve the project, seconded by Mr. Ross.

A roll call vote was taken.

Town of Lewiston	*Yes*
Town of Niagara	*Yes*
Lewiston Porter	*Yes*
City of Niagara Falls	*Yes*
Niagara-Wheatfield	*Yes*
Niagara County	*Yes*
New York Power Authority	*Yes*
Niagara Falls Schools	*Yes*

The resolution was approved

6.2 Town of Lewiston

6.1.3 Colonial Village Park Restoration Project – *B. Rotella*
(Town of Lewiston approved funding in amount of $41,000 on 08/09/13; NRGC *"came to a conclusion of a Lost Vote [tie vote]"* on 1/21//14; HCSC did not reach consensus on 2/11/14)

Mr. Widger stated that this project has met all the procedural requirements to bring it to a vote. Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roser.

A roll call vote was taken.

Town of Lewiston	*Yes*
Town of Niagara	*Yes*
Lewiston Porter	*Yes*
City of Niagara Falls	*Yes*
Niagara-Wheatfield	*Yes*
Niagara County	*Yes*
New York Power Authority	*Yes*
Niagara Falls Schools	*Yes*

The resolution was approved.

6.1.4 Lewiston Civic Center Project – *D. Brochey*
(Approved by HCSC on 6/6/13 for $9.2 million or $430,000/year for 30 years; Project was not approved by Town residents and will not move forward; Funds to remain in the Town of Lewiston Fund Account)

Ms. Bianco explained that this is the first time a project is being cancelled and it was felt that it would be best to put together a subcommittee to look at the procedures and protocols to follow if this were to occur again. Ms. Bianco stated that she has asked the following individuals to serve on this committee: Mr. Hapeman, Mr. Risman and Mr. Ross. Mr. Widger and Mr. Massaro will also serve on the committee to offer their legal guidance.

Mr. O'Donnell stated that the City had come to the HCSC previously with a project that was not going to utilize all their funds and a resolution was passed to return the funds to the City's HSCS account. Ms. Bianco explained that the Lewiston project is being cancelled and therefore the subcommittee is being asked to set forth some protocols for projects that fall into this category. Mr. Widger added that the committee will also look at several different fact patterns that may come up, i.e. if some expenditures are made between the time of approval and when project is cancelled. Mr. Burgasser asked if the subcommittee could also look at what happens when all entities are not represented at a meeting, which is what occurred at the February 11th meeting and make some recommendations to deal with that.

The resolution for returning the funds for the Lewiston Civic Center project will be taken up after the Committee has met to discuss options.

7.0 Niagara River Greenway Commission *(Informational Only)*

7.1 Minutes of March 18, 2014 NRGC Meetings
Provided as informational only.

8.0 Any Other Matters

8.1 Municipal Resolutions – First Niagara Bank Accounts

8.1.1 HCSC Main Account (C. Bianco, Chairperson; C. Roser, Vice Chairperson)
8.1.2 Lewiston-Porter School District Account (C. Roser; L. Braunbach)
8.1.3 Town of Lewiston Account (D. Brochey; P. Kloosterman)
8.1.4 Niagara Wheatfield School District Account (A. Brady; Marjorie Stroebel)

Mr. O'Donnell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ross, to approve the signatories on each account. Motion passed.

Griffon Park Project Request

Mr. O'Donnell stated that the Griffin Park project that was previously approved by the Niagara River Greenway Commission and the HCSC is going to require additional funding. The City would like to award a bid on Monday and Mr. O'Donnell asked if another meeting could be held next week. Mr. O'Donnell stated that the request is for $230,000 but he has no details at this time. The project has been approved as being consistent in the past and this is a request for additional funding for the same project.

Mr. Brochey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roser, to place the Griffon Park project on today's agenda for discussion. Motion passed.

Mr. O'Donnell stated that the bids are ready to be awarded and this request is for an additional $230,000 that is needed to complete the project. The City Council will vote on this Monday. Mr. O'Donnell explained that Griffon Park consists of a deteriorating lodge, parking lot and playground. This will be a major reconstruction of the park which is located on the City boundary which is located on the little River, separated from the main river. Ms. Melloni explained that the project was approved on October 4, 2011 unanimously for $200,000. It was decided that the meeting would recess and reconvene to allow Mr. O'Donnell to provide the Committee with an outline of what the funds will be utilized for.

Mr. Roser made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ross, to recess the meeting. Motion passed.

The meeting reconvened; roll call. Mr. O'Donnell reviewed the outline of funds being requested and noted that the amount they are requested is for $200,000. He stated that this was originally approved in 2011. They did not receive an EPF Grant and therefore they need the additional funding to cover the reconstruction of the parking lot – the bid that will be awarded on Monday. Mr. Ross stated that this is a good project and the park is used by many people. Mr. O'Donnell stated that this is for capital improvements – upgrading and improving the parking lot, new signage, installing a boat launch and removing and replacing trees in the park. This will result in additional parking spaces that are not available right now.

Griffon Park Project Request (Continued...)

Ms. Bianco asked for a motion to approve the additional funding in the amount of $200,000, contingent upon the approval by the City Council of Niagara Falls. Mr. Ross made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brochey.

A roll call vote was taken.

Town of Lewiston	*Yes*
Town of Niagara	*Yes*
Lewiston Porter	*Yes*
City of Niagara Falls	*Yes*
Niagara-Wheatfield	*Yes*
Niagara County	*Yes*
New York Power Authority	*Yes*
Niagara Falls Schools	*Yes*

The resolution was approved.

9.0 Next HCSC Meeting: Tuesday, June 3, 2014

10.0 Adjournment

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roser, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary P. Melloni
Recording Secretary