

# Willow Island Park Enhancements Committee Meeting Minutes

Contract # C1001636

Date: 8/5/2021

12:00pm - 1:30pm

**Meeting Attendees:** Timothy L. Savage, Michael Scriminger, Carol Pynchon, Varick Chittenden, John C. Larrance, Leigh Rodriguez (Director of Economic Development), Jeni Reed (Economic Development Assistant)

## Review of Conceptual Drawings from Previous Planning Efforts

Varick Chittenden

- Ideas shared:
  - Make sure the sidewalk is wide enough to accommodate vehicles for performers needing to access the stage area - 8ft minimum width.
  - Provide space for vendor truck(s) to sell food or drinks, etc.
    - May require an electrical access point in the area of the parking lot.
  - Bathrooms are currently planned to be composting toilets. Other options could be reviewed for feasibility.
  - The project was originally designed to go in phases.
  - Stage:
    - Potential for expansion to accommodate larger groups?
    - Stage minimum size should be 30ft across the front, 20ft depth.
    - Will need to be up off the ground on a concrete pad to prevent water damage from spring flooding.
  - Make sure the final plan addresses landscaping options to deter geese.
  - The "Artistic" feel of the park should be maintained - connect to the sculpture park.

## Request for Proposals

This needs to be written - Leigh will be working on.

- The committee will be able to select the most appropriate proposal for the project - will not be held to the lowest bid.
- Make sure to include a copy of the final drawings from the master plan (Rebecca Weld) with the RFP so potential contractors know what we are looking for.
- We could potentially offer an "Open House" or individual appointments at Willow Island to show the space to interested parties.
  - This would have to be post-Labor Day.
- The RFP should be open for 4-6 weeks.

## Potential Partners

- Matthew Mazzotta - Canton Native and world-renowned artist.
  - Visit his website (<https://www.matthewmazzotta.com/>) to get an idea of the types of projects he has done.
  - He has experience working with communities to develop functional art.
- Rebecca Weld - architect
  - Has worked with her in the past on the master plan for Willow Island.
  - Positive experiences.

## **Other Thoughts**

- SLU renovation of Appleton Arena - produced some large beams that could potentially be repurposed on this project.
- Grant - there are 3.5 years remaining on the current grant (which includes the Miner St. project as well).
  - May 2025 is the current end date.
- What requirements do we have for additional public input?
- Want to do a Field Trip to Tupper Lake - Flanders Park.
  - Can meet with several key players in the park's development.

## **To Do & Next Meeting**

- Carol Pynchon will touch base with Matthew Mazzotta & Varick Chittenden.
- Next Meeting will be 10/7 at 4pm.
  - We will review the RFP at this meeting.