

3/23/23 Willow Island

4pm - 5:40

Sign In
Print Name

Sign Name

Leigh Rodriguez

LANEE RODRIGER

Meghan Richards

Vance Pittenden

SEAN O'BRIEN

Leigh Rodriguez

L. W. Rodrig

Meghan Richards

Vance Pittenden

on zoom

Jeni Reed

Brooke Rouse

Mike Scriminger

Tim Bacon

Michele Palmer

Jacob VonMechow

Meeting Notes

March 23, 2023

Willow Island Park Enhancements Community Oversight Committee Progress Meeting

March 23, 2023

4:10 pm - 5:30 pm

Contract # C1001636

Prepared by: Jeni Reed/Jacob von Mechow

Attendees:

Michele Palmer (Whitham Planning & Design, Consultant) (zoom)

Jacob von Mechow (Whitham Planning & Design, Consultant) (zoom)

Varick Chittenden

Mike Scriminger (zoom)

Sean O'Brien (note: left at 5:10)

Lance Rudiger

Brooke Rouse (zoom)

Meghan Richardson (Village Employee)

Tim Bacon (Village Employee) (zoom)

Leigh Rodriguez (Village Employee)

Jeni Reed (Village Employee)

Project Discussion

Recap of Public Engagement Process

- This process is generally complete at this time; any additional written comments from the public session that happen to come in will be forwarded to the committee.
- Comments around the project are generally favorable, with notable concerns being traffic, noise, and the general location of the proposed project.

Questions to be Resolved

The questions presented to the committee via email on 3/23/23 were reviewed and discussed.

- Significant discussion around the proposed bathroom facilities took place.
 - It was noted that heating in a mobile facility would be a definite plus, while AC would be considered a luxury.
 - The question arose as to whether bathroom facilities can be funded through the grant (or any grant) - Leigh will need to investigate this further.

- It was recommended that even if a final decision is not made regarding bathroom facilities, the grounds could be prepared for a potential facility to be implemented at a later time.
- One suggestion involved a structure that could ultimately house a “port-a-potty” or several with a maintenance agreement in place.
- The process of bank stabilization was reviewed, and noted that significant additional funding would need to be involved to implement this portion of the project which is why it is proposed for a later phase.
 - Funding is likely available through the NYS DEC.
- The committee discussed what the priorities for the project should be based on the funding available and need to phase the project.
 - Varick indicated that Grasse River Heritage has been working under the assumption that this project will ultimately result in an arts themed park; although they are in favor of trees and other improvements, the emphasis has always been on arts for this location - including public access to restrooms, a playground, and a performance location.
 - It was felt that this is the assumption of the community as well.
 - There are significant concerns about funding for the proposed staging area; however the beginnings of this space can and should be addressed.
 - Matthew Mazzotta is currently not working under an official agreement with the Village, although he has been speaking with the Mayor about his involvement.
 - The current phasing includes park amenities, bathroom facilities, and the parking area to be included in phase 1, with an estimated cost of \$211,676. This leverages access to the road; starting at the “performance” end of the island and working backwards would incur higher costs.
 - If the Village can provide paving services (or contract to the County for a reduced rate) and related site preparation work as part of the grant match, this would allow available funds to stretch farther.
 - Tim Bacon indicated that he is meeting with the County in the next two weeks to discuss this year’s paving needs and could address this project as well.
 - It was discussed that park amenities (picnic tables, grills, etc) could be potentially donated by community clubs and organizations, freeing up additional funds.
 - The Canton Community Fund was mentioned as one such organization that should be approached.
 - It was determined that the goal of the current funded project is to complete the design schematic for the entire island (including a full planting plan), and then implement the first phase of the project.
 - Specific items will ultimately require further design and engineering, and additional funds will be needed for later design and implementation.

- To implement anything this season, construction documents would need to be completed within the next month or two.
- A defined priority for the first phase was determined to be a space that is capable of hosting a performance; even though the ultimate stage cannot be implemented in this phase.
 - Power, Pathways, & Appropriate Access to the entire island.
 - For power needs, it seems likely that the 100 Amp proposal for the performance area will be sufficient. If we can avoid the need to upgrade the electrical service (currently at 200 Amps) it will save a significant amount of money.
 - Electrical service should be underground to the end of the island, and will need to be up to certain electrical standards due to flooding.
 - Parking would also be key if sufficient funding is available.
- It was recommended that a “Concept Sign” be installed at the location, to help visitors visualize what the island will be like when the project is fully completed.
- Phase 1 Priorities:
 - Trail System - to provide good access to the majority of the island.
 - Preparation & Paving
 - Keep in mind the need to eventually work on bank stabilization, and how that may affect any trails put in place during phase 1.
 - Power extension to the end of the island.
 - Parking area - if funds are sufficient.
 - Plantings near areas of disturbance.
- Next Steps:
 - Jacob will redraw the phasing diagram to meet the identified priorities, and will work on budget figures.
 - Whitham will provide Tim with a rough diagram of the proposed paving area and coverage needs; Tim will provide a rough estimate for asphalt and paving services.
 - Updated phasing diagram and budget will be shared with Leigh, Jeni, Meghan, & Tim to work out logistics and finalize the schematic and phasing.

Next Meeting Scheduling

- April 27, 2023 at 4pm - Committee Meeting (if needed - TBD)

WIPE Steering Committee Questions

3/17/23

Ahead of the next WIPE Committee meeting (tentatively Scheduled for Thursday 3/23/23), the design team has the following questions which the Committee should be prepared to discuss and decide.

- Please confirm if the Phase 1 elements as identified in the Draft Phasing Plan that has been shared are in fact the components that the Committee would like to see implemented first. If there is a strong desire to accomplish other features of the park in the short-term instead, please let us know so that we can assess the necessary budget and logistical needs for this to happen.
- The Bathrooms, which we have confirmed are to be a movable trailer system, were previously estimated by the Civil engineer with the assumption that they would include the following:
 - Potable water for hand-washing in sinks.
 - Heating & Air Conditioning for use in both summer and winter season.Please confirm whether these amenities are, in the opinion of the Committee, necessary and desired. There are a number of pros and cons to these, which the design team is prepared to review with the Committee during the meeting.
- The existing power service to the park is for 200 amps. Our electrical engineer estimates, that 100amps of this existing service can be dedicated for use at the stage location. Please confirm if 100amps is adequate for the anticipated stage performances/uses.
- Additional features have been suggested during the public informational session, and through the design team's internal discussions. Please review these, and be prepared to discuss whether they should be included in the overall park design, and if so, which phase. A complete summary of all the ideas & comments put forth during the public informational session has already been circulated. A few specific items that may impact the Phase 1 budget (and should therefore be addressed at this time) are:
 - Water fountain/bottle filling station
 - Dog-waste station & bag dispenser
 - New trash and recycling receptacles
 - Small-court game areas, such as a bocce ball court, and/or horseshoe pit
- What are the extents of the Village's capabilities to provide in-house construction services? To what extent can the Village, or other local volunteer organizations be counted on? Please note that the more that can be accomplished with Village staff, or through volunteers/donations, the further the Phase 1 budget will stretch, so that more of the total plan can be accomplished in the short-term.

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