

Meeting Notes

Willow Island Park Enhancements Community Oversight Committee Progress Meeting

June 20, 2023

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Contract # C1001636

Prepared by: Jeni Reed/Michele Palmer

Attendees:

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

Barb Beekman

Varick Chittenden,

John Larrance

Tim Bacon

Matthew Mazzotta,

Richard Grover (resident)

Leigh Rodriguez (Village Employee)

Jeni Reed (Village Employee)

Project Discussion

- A walk-through Willow Island (including the Grasse River Heritage sculpture park and the Canton Island Park) was conducted with the above individuals in attendance.
- The committee members present were able to visualize on site the plan that has been proposed and consider any concerns.
- Public comments from Richard Grover were taken into consideration and discussed at some length. Some changes were proposed to the current schematic design, which will be evaluated by the consultants and the committee to further inform the plan.
 - Mr. Grover has concerns that the proposed pathway will be too close to the edge of the island once bank stabilization has been implemented. Michele agreed that the current placement of the pathway may be too close to the river's edge, so indicated that they would revise the plan to pull it back 4-5 feet on both sides.
 - He also held concerns that the specific locations toward the edges/end of the island that people currently utilize most heavily should be maintained and/or enhanced to ensure these areas can continue to be enjoyed.
 - The sequencing of the phasing plan was questioned. Mr. Grover expressed that the shoreline stabilization work should be done first to avoid potential damage to newly constructed pathways if they were to be done first. This has been considered by the committee in previous discussions. Michele agreed that ideally that would be the order of things, but with the limited budget that remains, and the priorities expressed by the committee and public it is being recommended that the Village proceed with the pathways first. This will provide greater access to more people to

enjoy the island sooner. She also indicated that she believed that heavy equipment that would be needed to do the shoreline work could largely work in grassy areas and avoid damage to the pathways.

- The placeholder location for a potential performance space was evaluated by Matthew Mazzotta and committee members.

Next Steps

- Village Board Presentation
 - Michele Palmer from Whitham will be presenting the project and updated phasing plan to the Village Board via Zoom at their June meeting tomorrow night.
 - Once the overall design and phasing plan is accepted by the Board, the consultants will continue the process of creating construction documents from the updated schematic design to implement Phase 1.

Next Meeting

July 13, 2023, at 4 pm - Committee Meeting to review 90% Construction Drawings

NOTE: There will NOT be a June 29 meeting