

Creekwalk 2 project
PIN 3755.14
Community Advisory Group Meeting NOTES
May 11, 2016

Notes in italics
Attendance sheet attached

Topics

Local Owners Update/County/Process

- *The City has continued to meet with property owners along the route. One residential property owner stated opposition to trail at the back of the property but all other responses are pro-trail or neutral. The City has made contact with approx. 90% of the property owners directly affected by the trail. A certified letter was sent to directly impacted owners. Contact is needed with several more owners.*
- *Discussed lighting on project – design will direct lighting away from homes and backyards; lighting along West St. Will use the existing lighting a minimum, and could be augmented with additional lighting. Lighting design is only preliminary at this stage.*
- *Discussed Onondaga Lot – Owner Ms. Moore indicated her plans for the lot include developing parking/private garages for residential development in the old hospital/school building. City plans currently do not accommodate her proposed use of the lot. R. Houck, City Engineering indicated that the Creekwalk needs the entire entrance to Temple St, and that the proposed development has three possible other entrances; flow of traffic was discussed. City believes that both projects can be accommodated. The trail design can be changed from that shown in the Draft Design Report. The Onondaga Street entrance to the parcel was also discussed. The City and Ms. Moore, along and her architect, agreed to meet to discuss the project. R. Houck to email Ms. Moore to set up a meeting.*
- *Discussions with Midway Market owner have been positive and City and owner are looking to develop mutually beneficial plans.*
- *Property Acquisitions – The City at previous meetings pledged not to negatively impact property assessments if parcels are subdivided as part of the acquisition process for the Creekwalk. Attendees asserted that as an act of good faith the City will need to put the pledge in writing as part of the acquisitions.*

Draft Design Report – submitted to DOT April 25, 2016

- *The NYSDOT is reviewing the report now and needs to give approval to the City to make the report available for public review. The Project Submittal Package (environmental and cultural resources determinations) is also under review by NYSDOT currently.*

Public Hearing – estimated June 2016

- *30 days minimum public notice for the meeting is required and the Draft Design Report must be available for public review at least 15 days before the meeting.*
- *The SWCC could be used for the public hearing; notice of the hearing will be made on the City website, local media, by email and by letter; property owners directly affected by the trail route will be sent notice by certified mail.*

Local Hire

- *City and interested stakeholders had a meeting in early March regarding local hire provisions for the Creekwalk.*
- *The current federal funding process does not allow set-asides based on worker residence (no geographical set-asides).*
- *USDOT/FHWA have a pilot program in place currently to allow geographic based asset-asides and local wage augmentation. The program was extended to March 2017 (project advertised by March 2017), but the Creekwalk will still not be ready to advertise within the timeframe.*
- *City is drafting a letter to NYSDOT/USDOT/FHWA expressing the City's interest in local hire provisions, and extension of the pilot program to allow the Creekwalk to participate. City will send a draft to Sharon Owens at SWCC who offered to provide a letter of support.*
- *S. Owens indicated that work set-aside percentages for local labor would be more effective than partial wage reimbursement to contractors for local labor used.*
- *Local conservation corps – there are set-asides for work in federally-funded projects for local conservation corps. Onondaga Earth Corps (OEC) would qualify – need to keep talking with Greg Michel of OEC and NYSDOT to determine where labor could be applied.*
- *City to contact Ricky Brown at Home HQ regarding local training programs; DBE/MBE/WBE development is a key part of the local labor effort and needs to be promoted by the City.*

COPS Cameras

- *City is working with the Syracuse Police Dept. on a plan for cameras along the Creekwalk Phase 2; Police Dept. is looking at a larger camera network on the Southside; TIP (Creekwalk) projects typically do not fund cameras; City is looking for grants to fund the Camera system.*
- *Emergency call boxes – Meeting attendees stressed the need and desire for emergency callboxes along the Creekwalk 2 route; City will look at ways to fund; part of project funds? Call boxes are on SU campus.*
- *Benches – attendees reiterated the desire for a very limited number of benches along the trail, and benches that would prevent sleeping/lying down. Park areas could have benches.*

SUNY-ESF Creek Access Concepts

- *SUNY-ESF senior design proposals were briefly presented including a boat access pond and edible landscape area. The project includes a basic boat access now in Kirk Park (west); ESF proposal would be a "Cadillac" boat and fishing access area. City is looking for additional funds for the more extensive design. USACE will be contacted regarding renaturalization programs.*
- *Attendees desired developing other Creek fishing access points on the Creekwalk. Rich St greenspace, other Kirk Park areas were suggested.*

Estimated Schedule

- June 2016 - Public Hearing
- August 2016 - Design Approval
- Fall 2016-2017 - DOT negotiations with property owners for acquisitions
- Fall 2018 - Final Plans
- Winter 2018/2019 – Project bid and contracted
- Early 2019 - Construction start; Fall 2020 - Construction End

Other?

Legal Representation – Property owners involved in the acquisition process might need access to free or low-cost legal advice/representation. The Volunteer Lawyer Project in the State Tower Bldg. was suggested as the best fit. Legal reps could not be used in litigation. R. Houck to contact Volunteer Lawyer Project and discuss with NYSDOT.



Subject _____

Date _____

CREEKWAY 2 COMMUNITY MTC
MAY 11, 2016

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