

## Genesee Valley Park West Master Plan

City of Rochester, Project #20042, NYSDOS #C006965

# Advisory Meeting #5 - Minutes

**Date:** April 13, 2014, 2:00-4:00 PM

**Location:** Southwest Neighborhood Service Center, 923 Genesee Street

### A. ATTENDANCE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Contact / Email</u>
Caitlin Meives	Landmark Society WNY	cmeives@landmarksociety.org
Sheila Bazil	Neighborhood	Sheila_bazil@yahoo.com
Jeff Mroczek	City of Rochester, DES	mroczekj@cityofrochester.gov
John Picone	City of Rochester, DRYs	piconej@cityofrochester.gov
Joanne DeMarle	Neighborhood	jddemarle@frontiernet.net
John Borek	Neighborhood	johnwborek@yahoo.com
Mark Bayer	Bayer Landscape Architecture	mhb@bayerla.com
Zakery Steele	Bayer Landscape Architecture	zds@bayerla.com

### B. MEETING CONTENTS

1. Jeff and Zak welcomed the attendees and provided a brief summary of past efforts, goals of this meeting, and activities through project completion.
2. This is the fifth Advisory Group meeting. The DRAFT Final Master Plan and boathouse concepts will be reviewed.
3. One Public Meeting has been held and a second and final Public Meeting is being scheduled. A Public Meeting was scheduled, and notification sent, for April 21st but that meeting is being rescheduled. A meeting cancellation notice will be sent out as will notification of a new meeting date when finalized.
4. With input from this and the upcoming Public Meeting, the Master Plan will be adjusted accordingly and the final master plan will be developed.
5. The grant that is funding the master plan process expires at the end of June, and all documentation must be finalized and submitted by that time.
6. John B. noted that if one of the ultimate goals is to increase the overall usage of the park, user safety (perceived and actual), needs to be included as a guiding principle, possibly included in Guiding Principal 8. Health & Wellness. If people are not, or do not feel safe, then they will avoid the park. Zak noted that it seemed important to include it in the project introduction as an overriding project goal, as all future park development should strive to increase user safety and the perception of safety.

7. John B. noted that there is community concern that the University of Rochester is driving some of the decisions being made in the planning process to serve their needs. Zak noted that the project plans have been developed to provide the best and highest public use as an important public park. The plans being reviewed are a result of extensive input from the Advisory Committee, the public from the first Public Meeting, City Department of Recreation and Youth Services, Genesee Waterways Center, and a thorough study of projected recreation trends and demands. The UofR has not been involved or consulted during the planning process.
8. John B. asked why the ballfields are being located south of Elmwood Avenue. The proposed location is a higher and dryer and significantly less likely to be impacted by fluctuating river or groundwater levels or the 100 or 500 year flood projections. We are also trying to respect the historic Olmsted park design by preserving the sweeping and uninterrupted river and park views connecting the east and west parks across this plane. The ballfields are a minimally visually intrusive element that will help achieve this design intent while still providing active park use.
9. John P. asked if it makes sense to have a complete road connection to Vixette St. or if a dead end with turn-around-loop would be better and less impactful to residents on Vixette St. The design of the new through road will include elements such as tabled crosswalks, narrow lanes, and winding alignment that will not be appealing to general cut-through traffic. The main roadways (Scottsville & Elmwood) and the new Kendrick/390 interchange will remain the easiest and quickest path of travel for commuters. It was suggested that a "No Left Turn" sign from Vixette onto Scottsville Rd might reduce cut-through traffic.
10. Joanne D. noted that the historic tree grove is a place people want to be and if there was a possibility of providing greater access to it. Zak noted that the grove is actually greater than the area enclosed by the walkway along Elmwood, it actually extends from Elmwood south to the tennis/basketball parking area. At past meetings we heard that the desired access to the grove often resulted in people driving along park paths and parking under the tree canopies. Neither of these is desirable for other park patrons or the long term health of the trees themselves. In response the small parking pod and picnic shelters are provided at the edge of the grove, allowing controlled access.
11. John P. noted that concessions were important for full-sized baseball and little league fields. It was agreed that Concessions could also be provided within the boathouse, which would be closer to the little league fields. The new field house near the full size field would still also provide concessions.
12. Elmwood Avenue Signal Light – Jeff noted that the Monroe County Department of Transportation has studied the signal light and has determined that it is no longer justified from a vehicular transportation perspective, and they will no longer support it. In such cases the City would need to pay an annual fee to the County to maintain and energize the signal. The group agreed that this is a needed signal as there is ample pedestrian crossing here to justify it. The City has informed the County that the annual fee will be paid to maintain the signal.
13. Joanne D. asked if the parking for the tennis courts was too far removed. Zak noted that it is slightly more distant than existing but nothing that should seem unreasonable, especially those going to play tennis, basketball or baseball. Zak compared it to equal or less than what would be experienced at a grocery store or shopping center.
14. Joanne D. asked if the tennis courts and large ballfield would be lighted. The tennis court would be lit as it is now, with the lights on a timer and adjusted seasonally. The large ballfield would also be lit with the lights only on when in use. When and if implemented, lighting should minimize spillover to

adjacent residences.

15. Sheila B. asked how the plan for the north side of Elmwood reflects the plans for the Brooks II project. The plan shows the exact road layout and alignment– one way southbound from Staybridge Hotel to turn around and two-way from turn-around to Elmwood – to be built in the Brooks II project. The only roadway element to be built by the Brooks II project not included in this plan is the parking area.
16. John P. noted that some of the recreation centers bring kids to the pool on busses and that the Wellness Center drop-off loop needs to accommodate them. Zak verified that busses will be able to access the loop.
17. John P. noted that while there are concessions and restrooms in the new Field House structure, it is too distant from the riverfront little league fields to adequately serve them. Jeff noted that there is flexible space built into the boathouse that could be used as concession space for the little league fields. The boathouse also has restrooms available on both levels that could serve the public.
18. John P. noted that there is a new Executive Director at the Genesee Waterway’s Center.
19. Joanne D. asked if the Banquet Room shown on the boathouse floor plan would conflict/compete with the restaurant space included in the new Flats Student Tower. The concept with the Banquet Room is for it to be used as a headquarters space for the various regattas, runs/walks or other large events that are centered in the park and as a high end public rental space for private parties, wedding receptions, etc... Catering level kitchen facilities would be provided but it would not be a restaurant. Zak noted that the “Banquet” label may be misleading one to think it’s a restaurant (it’s not) and will be changed.
20. Meeting minutes will be prepared and sent to all invitees along with the handout material. The same will be posted to project website (<http://www.cityofrochester.gov/gvpwmp/>).

END of MINUTES - Please notify Bayer Landscape Architecture of any errors or omissions in these meeting minutes.

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**GENESEE VALLEY PARK WEST MASTER PLAN**  
**Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**April 13, 2015 - 2:00-4:00 P.M.**  
**SW Neighborhood Service Center**

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