

West River Wall – Corn Hill Segment

NYSDOS Contract C1000688 | City Project. No. 16245

Public Meeting #2

Phillis Wheatley Community Library | 33 Dr Samuel McCree Way, Rochester, NY 14608

July 17, 2019 • 6:00-8:00 PM



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MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Attendees: Refer to attached sign-in sheet

Welcome and Introduction:

Kamal Crues (City of Rochester) commenced the meeting by welcoming attendees. Kamal is the City's Senior Structural Engineer and Manager for the project. Kamal then introduced Anthony Borrelli who is the project manager for Bergmann, the lead design consultant performing the preliminary and final engineering for the project. Kamal then reviewed the meeting agenda, project team members, explained who the involved agencies were for the project. Kamal and Anthony then lead the formal presentation, the highlights of which are noted below. A copy of the full presentation is included as an attachment to these minutes.

Project Objectives:

Kamal explained the primary objective of the project is to improve/restore flood protection. Secondary but equally important project objectives include: improving visual and physical access to the Genesee River, encouraging economic and neighborhood revitalization, creating connections into the adjacent neighborhoods and enhancing connections to the popular Genesee Riverway Trail.

He asked the attendees that during the presentation to ask clarification questions but hold off on providing input on the project. After the presentation the attendees will be encouraged to attend one of two feedback stations in the room. One for general Roc-the-Riverway questions/comment and the other for West River Wall Project questions and comments. Comment forms were provided to each attendee upon arrival. These comments will be critical to updating the overall design vision of the project.

Schedule / Timeline:

Kamal explained the schedule and the timeline of the project in the details, with an anticipated completion date of 2021. He also explained the construction budget of \$5.05M and how it will be allocated with the tasks that needs to be performed to complete project.

Community Input:

Kamal overviewed the key highlights of the input received from the four main sources that have been involved with project: Technical Advisory Committee Meetings, Community Advisory Committee Meetings, CHNA Meetings and Public Meetings. He explained that the results revolve around some common themes including:

- "Connectivity into downtown & community"
- "Orient views towards river"
- "boat launch"
- "Roc the Riverway synergies"
- "Rain gardens, Greenspace"
- "Relocate Griffin"



- “Gathering spaces, picnic areas, lounge areas”
- “Save the trees”
- “Better access to the river”
- “Improve pedestrian safety”
- “Lighting”
- “Street & lawn furniture”

Where the Design Currently Stands:

Anthony provided in details of where the design currently stands, he mentioned that the masterplan was updated and been approved by City. Anthony explained that they have started to prepare the construction documents of the preliminary design as well as preparing detailed cost estimates and environmental permits. He also explained the agreements with NYS Canal Corp is being finalized. Please refer to Slides #12-20 on the attached presentation and below are the highlights of this portion of the presentation.

- Master Plan Updates – Anthony explained the updated masterplan features much of the same features and configurations as the prior masterplan with the exceptions being a reconfigured main plaza (discussed below) and the need to eliminate the smaller north plaza and associated cross walk due to a combination of budgetary constraints and not being able to secure the property rights from Mark IV at the north end of the site.
- Main Plaza Re-configuration – Anthony explained the plaza configuration in the prior 2015 master plan was too street focused, and divided the usable space limiting the riverfront gathering space and opportunities for enjoying the river. The reconfigured plaza will feature the following:
 - ❖ Improved riverward focus
 - ❖ Ample space for gathering
 - ❖ Seating
 - ❖ Aesthetic lighting
 - ❖ Planting beds/rain gardens
 - ❖ Stair & ADA Ramp access
 - ❖ Relocating the Griffin Monument
- Typical Sections – Anthony described the 3 main project sections as being the plaza area, the lawn/berm area and naturalized shoreline area. The existing wall will be cut down below existing by approximately 2 ft, 4 ft and 9 ft respectively in these areas.
- Existing Tree Inventory – Anthony explained that an inventory of the exiting trees was done, the majority of the trees are considered “volunteers” that have grown randomly via dropped seeds, are clustered right behind the wall, have damage that shortens their life, are overcrowded and in places have become a tripping hazard. The work required to improve the flood protection wall as well as the proposed grading changes needed to accomplish the project goals will adversely affect the trees so they unfortunately need to be removed. Transplanting is not effective or practical given the size and condition of the trees as well as the cost.
- Preliminary Tree Palette – Anthony explained that native species of trees that can thrive in less than ideal “urban fill material” that exists on site will be used in the project. Preliminary tree species being considered include; eastern redbud, flowering dogwood, eastern white pine, white oak, red maple and river birch. The new tree layout will be thoughtful with consideration for future canopy spread, avoiding utilities, trail tripping hazards and maintenance considerations.



- Preliminary Landscaping Plan – Anthony explained that the preliminary design intent is to plant approximately 50-70 new trees and we will look to save existing where possible. Also, an additional 500+ new shrubs, perennials and ornamental grasses will be included. Rain gardens will be located at the main plaza. In accordance with US Army Corps of Engineers guidelines, the flood protection berms in the two lawn areas on either side of main plaza cannot have large trees planted in front of, behind or on top of the berms due to concerns regarding their roots compromising the levee structure or should the trees die and topple. However Anthony explained that outside of the two berm/lawn areas new trees will be planted at a higher density than existing.
- Hand Carry Boat Launch – Anthony explained the plan is to remove the current hand carry boat launch at the north end due to its deteriorating condition. He explained it not in the best shape and safety is the City's top priority. Inclusion of a new boat launch in the project will be based on budgetary constraints. Anthony explained that there are plans to incorporate boat launch facilities across the river as part of the City's East River Wall project and in the Vacuum Oil portion of the project, south of Ford St.
- Naturalized Shoreline Area – Anthony explained that in this area, the existing river wall will cut down to below the normal water elevation so that the river's edge can "spill" into the project site. The land behind the cut down wall will be graded on a slope that will feature a combination of cut-stones, rip-rap and water tolerant plantings and grasses, effectively creating a more natural shoreline than the walled-off sections prevalent throughout downtown. This has become a growing trend in urban areas featuring water courses running through them.

Opportunities for Community Involvement:

Anthony and Kamal explained opportunities for community partnership. Opportunities discussed include:

- Adopt a brick, chair, piece of the project
- Assistance with maintenance of gardens, planters, section of the path
- Stewardship the property (keep it fresh, maintained, and free of litter)
- Place making (Naming a Park)

Anthony/Kamal then urged the community to express their ideas and suggestions for establishing a name for the newly created project. They have received three possible names (shown on the presentation slides), but encourage more ideas.

Next Steps:

The meeting concluded with a review of next steps outlined as follows:

- Submit Preliminary Plans | July 2019
- Submit Advanced 90% Plans | September 2019
- Obtain Permits & Approvals | July-November
- Submit Final Plans | November 2019
- Bidding | Late 2019
- Award Contract | Early 2020
- Start Construction | Spring 2020
- Complete Construction | 2021

Attendees were encourage to stop at the two feedback stations to provide written comments and ask additional questions not answered during the formal presentation. The meeting concluded at approximately 8:00 PM.

sign in

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