

Public Meeting #2

Erie Harbor Enhancements Phase 2 (EHE2) / Genesee Gateway Park / #192800048

Date/Time: October 30, 2019 / 6:00 – 8:00PM
Place: The Hamilton, Community Room, 185 Mt Hope Avenue
Next Meeting: TBD
Attendees: Project Team: Jeff Mroczek (City), Amanda Phetteplace (Stantec), Zakery Steele (Stantec), Christopher Dunne (Highland Planning), Andre Primus (Highland Planning), Erik Frisch (City)
Public: See sign in sheet attached
Absentees: N/A
Distribution: Project Team, PAC, Project Website (City)

This document was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.

Meeting Minutes:**1. Introduction (6:10)**

Jeff Mroczek (City of Rochester) greeted the attendees and provided an introduction to the project, history, and current status.

2. Presentation (6:15)

Zakery Steele (Stantec) gave a presentation outlining the activity and progress since the first public meeting on 4/26/2018 and described the process as to how the masterplan was developed.

3. Questions and Comments (6:35)

Comment: The boulder play feature is popular in other areas of the country. It is a simple feature with a lot of engaging opportunities for play (for all ages) as well as seating for events.

Question: Will you meet with the residents of The Hamilton again?

Response: We will contact Renee at the Hamilton and we may have another meeting.

Question: The new natural playground at Highland Park (Lilac Adventure Zone at Highland Park) is great. Could you go to an elementary school to get input from the kids as to what they would like to see at this playground?

Response: We will explore the logistics of involving school kids with the City.

Question: How will people get boats to the launch? What will the access be?

Response: It is recognized that the success of the launch will be dependent upon access. The City is committed to using part of 151 Mt Hope Avenue for future launch drop off and parking area with the long-term goal of having a shared-parking scenario with potential future 151 Mt Hope development. A parking lot or curb cuts are not included in the current project. A traffic assessment has been done to determine where a curb cut could be in the future. The City is aware that access is needed.

October 30, 2019

Error! Reference source not found.

Page 2 of 5

Question: Many people live downtown in apartments where they cannot store boats or may not be able to afford to buy their own. Will there be rentals or storage for boats?

Response: The City's desire is to activate the river corridor with potential for rentals and concession to compliment the hand-carry boat launch in the future. The project will explore temporary storage options.

Question: Are there plans for "food pop-ups" or concessions?

Response: The intent of the current project is to improve direct access and visibility to the riverfront with flexible park space for community use. Extra wide access and flexible spaces to accommodate City or community events, food trucks, etc. have been provided in the plan to address this. If there are specific things that you would like to see, please make a suggestion.

Question: Bike commuters, what are the accommodation for bike and pedestrian safety?

Response: The existing trails in the phase 2 improvement area are proposed to be widened by 2 feet and specialty paint and striping will attempt to minimize ped/bike conflicts..

Question: From previous meetings wasn't the intent to separate the pedestrians and bicyclists?

Response: The master plan proposes riverfront and park exploration trails and an enhanced wider riverway trail. The Riverway trail is mean to accommodate both bikes and pedestrians as it does now.

Question: How much interaction is there with the project team for the west side improvements is there?

Response: City Project Managers communicate on the various projects that are in the works. They are proposing docks on the west side.

Question: Is the Corn Hill project (west side project) proposing to remove the river wall? Where is parking for this?

Response: The west side project is proposing to remove parts of the river wall and naturalize a portion of the shoreline. There is a small existing parking lot on the Corn Hill side as well as on street parking.

Question: People are not aware as to how much of the lawn area is public, and what part belongs to the apartments. How will public and private areas be delineated?

Response: This is a topic that the PAC has brought up and the master plan attempts to address. Different techniques will be explored to delineate public and private spaces. In some areas the riverway trail is shifted east to put more public land on the river side of the trail, in other areas options such as short decorative fencing or boulders are proposed to show a visual delineation delineation.

Question: Could the berm be manipulated to delineate public and private space?

Response: The berm will generally need to remain but, in some areas, it can be shifted slightly or lowered where feasible.

Question: Would it be more economical to have a fountain that draws water from the river instead of including a spray feature? It could be more aesthetically pleasing.

Response: There is too much sediment in the river, and it clogs fountains. There is a fountain in the river downtown (near Charles Carroll Park) that does not function for this reason. Even if the fountain is just for aesthetics (not for water play) there are strict health codes and liability that need to be addressed. The team is exploring inclusion of a spray feature depending on if the project budget will support it.

Question: What will happen to all the trees that are here?

Response: The master plan design is very sensitive to the existing tree locations. There are approximately 150 trees that are existing within the project limits and approximately 16 are proposed to be either removed or relocated. The

October 30, 2019

Error! Reference source not found.

Page 3 of 5

master plan also adds approximately 120 new trees, including approximately 40 within the Phase 2 improvements areas.

Question: In previous concepts there were buildings proposed at 151 Mount Hope. Where are they in the current plans?

Response: Sketches of buildings on 151 were produced in past concepts plans to explore how future unknown development scenarios would interact with the proposed park improvements. There are currently no plans for development on 151 Mt Hope Avenue. The parcel has significant environmental and geotechnical constraints.

Question: Will there be a bridge to cross the river?

Response: The overall vision for the ROC the Riverway project would like to include a bridge. There is currently no funding for this feature.

Question: Where will the parking be for the boat launch. Currently people park on the street and in front of the bus stop (illegally). What will stop people from illegally parking in the apartment parking lots and in "non designated" parking on the street?

Response: This has been encountered in other areas of the city and enhanced parking enforcement with the City will have to be discussed.

Comment: The High Line project in New York City has done an excellent job at creating private spaces in a very public setting.

Question: What is the timing of construction? How will commuter bicyclists and pedestrians be routed during construction of this project and the West River Wall, Skate Park and this project? Will projects overlap?

Response: There will be construction overlap. The West River Wall Project will begin in 2020 and is a 2-year project. Coordination for detours that affect these projects will be carefully look at and posted. Some temporary detours are inevitable to make these park and trail improvements possible.

Comment: Regarding the delineation of public and private space: maybe choose a colorful plant palette that is specific to each area, planting themes that the public can recognize.

Question: Several small kids live in The Hamilton. What if a child wanders away and fall in the river near the boat launch?

Response: The new play area and basketball courts have been moved further away from the river and the railing, bollards, and chain will still be there. This is an existing condition in the city.

Question: Will there be a new formal crossing of Mt. Hope Ave at Gregory Street. It is needed for safe crossing to the park.

Response: This project will only be making improvements to the park spaces. The project team will work with DES Street Design to see if a crossing can be implemented at this intersection.

Comment: Some of the railing has been stripped and primed.

Jeff Mroczek (City of Rochester) stated that the presentation from today will be posted on the City's website. They will look into including a statement that comments from people who were not able to attend today's meeting may submit comments within a certain period for consideration.

There is a tentative 3rd public meeting (exact date and time TBD) in March of 2020.

October 30, 2019

Error! Reference source not found.

Page 4 of 5

4. Open House (7:00 – 8:00)

Attendees were encouraged to review the displays depicting the revised long term master plan and Phase 2 northern and southern improvement area plans.

5. Comments from Open House

Community Shared Parking? Talk to SWPC

Love the bridge and cove area. Interactive. More bridge over water is great. See duck on boardwalk.

Play on Both ends of park is great!

Curb cut! Bike and ped crossing friendly.

Hammocks won't last!

Nice open spaces enhance the view of and focus on river.

Love the naturalization. Something for everyone and every age.

Very cool!

Use of boulders as natural seating general and en masse for music viewing.

Can seating have round table/chair configuration that include short seats that are not suitable for "sleeping"?

Essential curb cut with way across Mt. Hope.

This park feels to close to traffic – loud! Smokey! to ever hang out in. I can imagine ever tossing a blanket down to relax.

Makes me sad. Trees will help make space feel more park like.

Step escarpment rocks so they can provide seating for performances.

Nice. Palmetto Dunes (Hilton Head) kayak rental floating dock boat launch.

Like docks need absolutely know there is parking built in.

Plan for kayak rental! Kayak storage. ½ of SWedge is rentals – not many will own kayaks

Where is the playground / element that is suitable for toddlers?

More Picnic tables

No fences. Plantings.

Too many white men presenting

Where are the sculptures

October 30, 2019

Error! Reference source not found.

Page 5 of 5

NYC Hi Line Park – Urban & Busy yet there are private feeling areas to sit

Playground play area should be “adult” friendly size-wise. Parents like to also climb & play.

[heart] Nature play area

Work with Drys! Perimeter asphalt project to design/paint basketball court.

Should the cove open downstream to decrease debris trapping?

Drinking fountains are great! Healthy & convenient!

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of all items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact the writer immediately.

Stantec Consulting Ltd.

Amanda Phetteplace, RLA

Landscape Architect

Phone: (585) 413-5226

amanda.Phetteplace@stantec.com