

**LPC Meeting #1**

November 14, 2018 at 5:00 PM

**MEETING SUMMARY**

A list of Local Planning Committee (LPC) attendees is below. A list of public attendees is attached.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Deanna Alterio Brennen	YWCA of the Niagara Frontier - Co-chair
David Wohleben	Mayor, City of Lockport – Co-chair
Paul Brown	Buffalo Building and Construction Trades Council
Joan Aul	Greater Lockport Development Corporation
Becky Burns	Niagara County Community College
Kathleen DiMillo	Hunt Real Estate
Jessica Dittly	Lockport Main Street, Inc.
Amanda Farrell	City of Lockport Councilwoman
Dave Kinyon	Locks Heritage District Corporation
Anne McCaffrey	Eastern Niagara Hospital
Kevin McDonough	Resident
Chris Smith	Grigg Lewis Foundation
Jeff Tracy	Starpoint School District
Shelley Unocic	Lockport Ice Arena
Gary Bennett	Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority

**Welcome and Introductions**

LPC co-chairs, Deanna Alterio Brennan and Mayor David Wohleben, welcomed and thanked all LPC members for their attendance and participation. Kimberly Baptiste (Bergmann) began the formal presentation by introducing herself and welcoming members. She also explained that this meeting would be a working session for the LPC and time would be reserved for public remarks/comments at the end of the meeting. All LPC members introduced themselves and their affiliations to the group.

**Code of Conduct**

Following the introductions, Christopher Bauer reviewed the New York State Code of Conduct for all LPC members. This is a procedure to avoid any conflicts of interest throughout the DRI planning process.

**Overview of the Project Team and LPC**

Kimberly led a discussion regarding the role of state agencies, consultants, and City staff in the DRI planning process. It was made clear that the consultants are contracted with the State for completion of the DRI plan.

Kimberly provided an overview of the consultant team working on the project, which includes:

- Bergmann, as the prime consultant
- Camoin Associates, market and economic analysis
- Stuart Alexander and Associates, development consultant specializing in housing,
- Sustainable Planning and Design, urban planning assistance
- STC Design, architecture and design

Kimberly also reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the LPC. The LPC plans to meet at least once per month until March 2019. Tentative dates have been established.

*Note: The tentatively scheduled meeting for November 26<sup>th</sup> was changed to November 29<sup>th</sup>. All other dates remain as the future scheduled LPC meetings.*

### **DRI Program Review**

Kimberly provided an overview of the DRI planning process, including the goals of the DRI program, how communities are selected for the DRI and the development of Lockport's Strategic Investment Plan. Kimberly also provided an overview of the anticipated schedule for the DRI process.

The original boundary included in Lockport's 2018 DRI application was also presented. The proposed revision of this boundary was shown to the committee, which included additional parcels to the southwest and northeast to account for potential projects within this area.

*Note: The LPC approved the proposed revision of the Lockport DRI boundary.*

Kimberly provided an overview of the DRI community engagement process.

- Bergmann developed a Public Engagement Strategy that details the components of all pieces of community engagement. This strategy will describe all methods of communication and engagement, including meeting notices and events. Bergmann will prepare and facilitate all LPC and public meetings.
  - Reminders for meetings are to come from established co-chairs
  - Utilization of City's existing webpage for posting of DRI materials
- Monthly LPC meetings. The frequency of these meetings can be increased, if necessary.
- Potential for the use of storefronts or office space for public engagement

*Note: The LPC is tasked to review the Draft Public Engagement Strategy and provide comments to Bergmann by Wednesday November 21<sup>st</sup>*

### **Discussion of Lockport's DRI Proposal**

Brian Smith (GLDC) led a discussion of the past, recent, and on-going projects that have taken place within the City of Lockport, including Harrison Place, Canal Street and Locks District, the Historic Palace Theatre, and the Cornerstone CFCU Arena. Brian also discussed potential projects proposed in the City's 2018 DRI application. Potential projects include streetscape enhancements, Harbor and Marine Center, Spalding Mill Building Improvements, Harrison Place improvements, Tuscarora Club, Historic Post Office and YMCA, F&M Building, and Bewley Building.

### **Open Call for Project Proposals**

Kimberly explained the potential to host an Open Call for Project Proposals for the DRI process. This open call would allow for project sponsors to submit potential projects for consideration by the LPC.

*Note: The LPC reviewed the Open Call for Project Proposals and approved the proposed December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 submission deadline.*

**Visioning Session**

Kimberly facilitated a visioning activity with the LPC. Questions and responses are summarized below:

1. In one word, what is Lockport's greatest asset?

- Character
- Canal/Locks (x6)
- History (x2)
- People (x4)
- Pride
- Palace
- Location

2. In one word, what is the greatest challenge facing downtown today?

- Attitude
- People
- Negativity
- Economy
- Poverty (x2)
- Wealth
- Cohesiveness
- Infrastructure
- Dated Stock
- Market
- Marketing
- Empty/Vacancy

3. In one word, how would you like to be able to describe Lockport in 5 years?

- Welcoming
- Bustling (x2)
- Busy
- Viable
- Thriving
- Active
- Exciting
- Revitalized
- WOW
- Successful
- Populated
- Vibrant (x3)
- Alive

4. What one project do you think would have the most significant impact in downtown Lockport?

- Flight of Five (x2)
- Post Office
- YMCA Renovation
- Attractive Affordable Downtown Living
- Marina (x2)
- Employment Center
- F&M Building (x5)
- Community Rebirth
- Housing
- Reverse Urban Renewal

**Next Steps**

Kimberly described upcoming public engagement and project development activities, which include:

- Ongoing stakeholder interviews throughout November and December
- Public Workshop #1 (immediately following this meeting at 7:30PM)
- Local Planning Committee Meeting #2 – November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Public Comments**

- A Lockport resident commented on the DRI boundary revisions. He believes that the train station should be included instead of the property around the Erie Canal by Stevens Street.
- Chuck Banas from Unlock Lockport believes that general infrastructure improvement projects should be considered for DRI funding.



LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING #1 SIGN IN | PUBLIC ATTENDEES

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