

## Local Planning Committee (LPC) Meeting #2 Summary – 5/29/24 at Herkimer County Community College

- The second LPC meeting began with a welcome from Co-chair Renee Shevat and the reading of the preamble by the Mayor.
- Progress update – reminded the group of where we are and of the December deadline.
- Open Call for Projects Update – asked the group if an extension to the open call be made – the group agreed to **extend the deadline till June 17<sup>th</sup>**.
- Provided an update on the public input to date.
  - o Gathered public input on the vision/goals, challenges/opportunities, public improvements such as streetscapes and Myers Park.
  - o General themes – more things to do for all ages, increase tourism, walkability and complete streets, beautification, maintain historic character, diverse food options.
- Vision and Goals Discussion with LPC
  - o The LPC was asked what they believed was an asset and what the downtown area should strive to be.
  - o Based on that feedback, a new draft vision was presented, and people were given the chance to comment on that.
  - o That feedback was taken into consideration and another vision was drafted and presented.
    - This was edited and ideas were discussed.
  - o Vision was finalized and agreed to by the LPC.
  - o Goals were then discussed.
    - Started with the 4 draft goals from the application and the 6 goals that are being proposed after public input.
    - The goals were tweaked slightly and then agreed on by the LPC.
    - Strategies were then discussed briefly.
- Local Project requirement discussion
  - o Reviewed the current DRI Guideline minimums
  - o Proposed requirements floated to the LPC.
    - 50% match for private– proposals with higher matched are looked at more favorably.
    - Minimum DRI ask - \$100,000 (200k total cost)
    - Max – 1.5 million, no more than 15% of DRI funds can go to single for-profit project.

- Initial idea is to lower the match requirement to 35%, lack of private investments is a major concern. **Motion to lower to 25% and have 2 million maximum DRI ask with a 100k minimum – all LPC agreed.**
- Might be good to have 100k minimum and have smaller projects go into a small projects fund for lower capacity projects.
- Non-profit and Public projects requirement discussion – match percentage can come from other public funding source
  - Comfortable with 10% match requirements for non-profit and no match for public funding – **motion was made – and LPC agreed**
  - Max/min? – **public and non-profit project max 4 million DRI ask, 75k min total project cost, no minimum DRI ask – LPC agreed**
- Evaluation criteria discussion
  - 7 criteria already, no changes made
    - DOS reminded that local vision and goals already impact judgment
- Next Steps
  - Extend open call for projects
    - Publicize again to get more submissions
  - Decarb webinars available for interested
  - Tentative LPC meeting dates
    - LPC 3 – July 18
    - LPC 4 – August 14
    - LPC 5 – Sept 17
    - LPC 6 – Oct 8
- Public Remarks
  - Any possibility of adding PC history to the area
  - Appreciate the way this has been formatted and all the effort
  - NYS BBALL HOF is looking for location – historic courthouse is an option would be across the street from site of first Basketball game
  - Community foundation – can help assist since its hard for them to put up money up front
  - Can sponsors submit multiple projects? Yes – can be combined and/or phased.
  - Can tax credits be used in conjunction with DRI funds? – yes

Adjourned