

## Local Planning Committee (LPC) Meeting #5 Summary – 10/8/24 at Herkimer College

- The fifth LPC meeting began with a welcome from Co-chair Renee Shevat and the reading of the Code of Conduct preamble by the Mayor.
- Some LPC members restated their recusals
- Progress update
  - o LPC conducted working sessions in September to review all the projects in detail
  - o the goal of this meeting is to agree on a slate of recommended projects
- Potential Project List
  - o Since last LPC meeting, one project withdrew due to numbers “not penciling out,” both church projects requested to be moved to the SPF. Both sponsors expressed their appreciation to the LPC and community for their consideration
  - o 12 potential projects remaining
- Evaluation Criteria
  - o Reminder of the Evaluation Criteria to select projects including Herkimer Vision & Goals
- Projects
  - o The Consultant Team reviewing the list of potential projects, sharing updates and a summary of how the project met or did not meet the evaluation criteria. The LPC then indicate whether to keep or cut each project from the slate:
    - Myers Park – reviewed report and survey of disturbed soil in former cemetery, project would not impact these areas, SHPO/specialist on site during project to supervise process (standard practice). -KEEP
    - Village Streetscapes – Shared final Gateway concept, draws more on Herkimer Diamond geometry. NYSDOT rep note: recent guidance puts minimum height of this at 17 feet - KEEP
    - Diamond District branding – website and marketing materials, complementary to streetscapes project, also includes public art (e.g., murals, diamond statues) prices adjusted - KEEP
    - Historical Society – final numbers a little higher, have private funds (endowment) to cover match, though will seek to cover with fundraising as much as possible if awarded - KEEP
    - Herkimer College Projects\_-HVAC Learning Lab and E-Sports – would take over 245 municipal building, have alternative spaces for library to relocate
      - Updated ask of \$4 million each (max for public projects)
      - discussion on location, some concerns over plans for library\*
        - o *\*\*ultimately following alternative analyses after the meeting, the library will stay in same building and the HVAC project will be located in the back half of the building, E-Sports was moved to a pipeline project due to lack of suitable location downtown at present.*
        - o KEEP BOTH, some recusals, review total budgets at end
    - Former Masonic Temple – prices adjusted to reflect decarbonization costs, have some secured and anticipated match from public grants - KEEP

- Small Project Fund – Approx. \$1.2 million worth of projects demand to justify \$600,000 ask. Could set aside some of fund for a “beautification” initiative (e.g., Corning) to support building/shop owners - KEEP
- Dentist and 120 West Albany St – no changes - KEEP
- Nellis Building – awaiting some documentation. Some questions/discussion on project feasibility due to cost and extent of renovations (fire damage) - CUT
- Quackenbush – Scope reduced/refined: STEAM Center in one-story split block building (phase 1), 3 museums on first floor of main building after clean-up (phases 2 and 3). Basketball park is in shape of a basketball from a bird-eye view (not a 3D basketball)\* *park cut from final budget*. Have a list of matching public and private funding sources including individuals (Verbal commitments). Awaiting documentation. Discussion on importance of educational resources for youth – KEEP
- 11 projects on the slate.
- Total DRI ask:
  - with updates at this meeting, totaling to ~\$19 million – too high
  - State will generally fund at 100% of ask, with some adjustments to at least one project to hit the exact award amount (\$ 9.7 million). If larger projects include a phased budget, some more flexibility to fund larger projects partially (first phases) instead of all or nothing
  - Adjust Herkimer College project asks down, so can spread funding around more, reduce to \$2 Million ask each.
  - Total DRI ask ~\$16 Million
- Pipeline Projects?
  - No\*
  - *\*ultimately the E-Sports project, a recommended project, withdrew and was redesignated as a pipeline project*
- Next Steps
  - Finalize Strategic Investment Plan and supplemental materials for submittal (draft November, final December)
  - Award announcements typically expected in spring (happened in May 2024 for the past round)
  - Once awards announced, sponsors can begin spending money on their awarded projects. Expenses from before that date will not be eligible for reimbursement.
  - Contracting with respective state agency follows, in Summer and Fall
  - SPF often one of the first projects to get moving in terms of implementation
- Public Comment
  - NYS DOT shared resources for Village and project sponsors related to the DRI
  - Village Trustee read a statement regarding the relocation of the library
  - Sponsors thanked the committee for their work