

UHPDC minutes

2/24/16

In attendance: Mary DePass, Steve Dimeo, Vincent Gilroy, Brian Thomas, Sam Collosimo-Testa, Ed Bucciero, John Fiume, John Wade, Alicia Dicks

Others: Mayor Robert Palmieri, Jack Spaeth, Lisa Nagle, Paul Romano, Steve Eckler, Kate Hartnett, Allison Damiano-DeTraglia, Cat Manion, Fred Arcuri, Tim Fitzgerald, Christian Mercurio

Public: Melissa Krul (Time Warner)

1. Mr. Dimeo called the meeting to order at 4:12pm
2. AOM: June 17, 2015 1st – Mr. Bucciero, 2nd – Mr. Thomas, AIF
3. SEQR Update: Ms. Nagle stated the Common Council had approved the FGEIS. There were only two substantive comments to the GEIS – NYS DOT: the light on N. Genesee and the narrowing of the John St. exit; and NYS DEC: edits to the permit table regarding flood plain language.

The SEQR is complete and provides a number of benefits to project development including saving time and money for developers, provides baseline environmental information and results in a more build-ready site.

4. Canal Corporation Update: Letters have been sent to the Canal Corp stating the bulkhead wall is in bad disrepair and the UHPDC has no funds and cannot take on the risk of the wall. A letter has been prepared reinforcing those points to be signed by Mr. Gilroy. The Canal Corp wants to dredge the harbor one more time, cap the DSA-1 with it and let it sit for one year. Soils from the Nano-Utica site will be used for capping of the dredge piles. As to the 1917 Building, there is no room in its current location. SHPO needs to approve any options for the building as well as the bulkhead and other smaller structures. NYS will assist with the SHPO application as it is similar to the Syracuse harbor project.

5. NYS DOS Meeting: Ms. Nagle stated that Mr. Thomas and she made a presentation to the NYS DOS in Albany. Funding from DOS is at \$2.5MM.

6. ESD Grant: The grant is for \$5.0MM. The UHPDC needs to have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and financing in place. Mr. Dimeo stated that a \$1.0MM LOC is in place but who is responsible for the LOC is between the City of Utica or UHPDC.

7. Wurz Avenue improvements: Discussion took place as to Wurz Avenue and Wells Avenue as to necessary width, usage and timing. Some discussion ensued regarding uses and zoning of proposed development in the Harbor Point area. Ms. Testa mentioned the 'Complete Street' application and will work with Mr. Thomas for state funding.

8. Project Components: Design and Engineering

Mr. Romano described the bulkhead engineering for redesign of the wall. Expected cost will be around \$6.6MM. The method expected to be used would be utilization of sheet pilings and then filling in behind it presents the most cost-effective solution versus tearing down the bulkhead and rebuilding it. This work should be expedited due to its compromised condition.

DSA-1 In order to access the DSA-1 area a construction road needs to be in place and this would have to traverse two privately held properties so further discussion needs to take place.

9. National Grid: Mr. Fiume stated that parcels 7, 8 and 9 have been filed with the courthouse?? Last phase is the Mohawk River?? Capping of the MVO (triangular plot of land to the west of the harbor) is a few years out. NG is improving the substation located in Harbor Point for future development and powers most of the city.

10. Property Acquisition: ???

11. Project Finances: discussed earlier

12: Washington Street Access: Discussion ensued as to how the connection between Harbor Point and Downtown Utica: pedestrian bridge, trolley, gondola, etc. It was suggested that because there are a lot of moving pieces that all stakeholders should meet to discuss how, what, where and when. Mr. Gilroy will send out a letter to all those concerned.

13. Old business/Other

14. Proposed Next Meeting Date – TBD

15. Adjournment – Mr. Gilroy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Depass to adjourn the meeting at 5:48pm.