

## Village of Phoenix - NY Forward Local Planning Committee Meeting #1 Meeting Notes

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Date/Time	May 30, 2023 / 4-6pm
Place:	White Pines Commons, 61 Davis Street
LPC Attendees:	<b>Mayor Brian Borchik</b> , Co-Chair <b>Austin Wheelock</b> , Executive Director of Operation Oswego County, Co-Chair <b>John Adolfi</b> , Adolfi Real Estate <b>Brendan Backus</b> , Lock 1 Distilling Co <b>Amy Boyzuck</b> , Great Bear Childcare LLC <b>Natalie Curran</b> , Village of Phoenix Public Library <b>Sheila Dion</b> , Erin's Angels <b>Paul Griser</b> , Village of Phoenix Trustee <b>Sally Woolson</b> , Phoenix Community Garden
LPC Not in Attendance:	None
State/Consultant Team Attendees:	<b>Holly Granat</b> , New York State (NYS) Department of State (DOS) <b>Lissa D'Aquanni</b> , New York State (NYS) Department of State (DOS) <b>Steve Kearney</b> , Stantec <b>Phil Schaeffing</b> , Stantec

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The Village of Phoenix's first NY Forward Local Planning Committee (LPC) meeting took place on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, at White Pines Commons. The meeting's primary purpose was to introduce the NY Forward process and LPC responsibilities to committee members, review the Village's successful application, discuss opportunities and challenges, and review community engagement plans with the committee. Steve Kearney (SK) and Phil Schaeffing (PS) from Stantec presented the attached slideshow.

### Welcome

- Mayor Brian Borchik presented the LPC code of conduct to remind members to always act in the public interest.

### NY Forward Overview and Planning Process

- Steve Kearney outlined the goals of the NY Forward program for the \$4.5 million awarded to the Village of Phoenix for project implementation in and near the Canal Waterfront District.
- Steve described the approximately six-month planning process which will include five to six LPC meetings, two public meetings, and a NY Forward table at an upcoming local event.

## Phoenix NY Forward Application Highlight

- The key features of the Village's successful application for the NY Forward program were reviewed. Opportunities identified in it include recent investments in the Canal Waterfront District (both public and private), river access, and growth potential at the Oswego County Industrial Park.

## LPC Discussion

### 1. Review of the NYF Boundary

*\* The boundary discussed is included at the end of these meeting notes.*

- How big should the boundary be – the whole Village or smaller? The purpose of the boundary is to keep the NYF process manageable and help focus resources in a compact area to have a transformative physical impact. Smaller projects in the neighborhoods beyond the canal could be captured in a small projects fund.
- LPC member noted value of including the Majestic Tool site within the program boundary, despite its location slightly further from downtown.

### 2. Public Engagement and Communications

- The group discussed details related to the nature, location, and timing of engagement, namely:
  - The consultant team clarified that a “pop up event” would mean bringing opportunities to learn more about NYF and provide input at existing events – such as a table staffed by the project team at a festival.
  - The school superintendent could send something in student backpacks and send something to school staff to get the word out about NYF and future engagement events.
  - The Mayor could mention events and updates in his newsletter.
  - The library could have informational material available – their summer reading registration gets 150+ adults in late June/early July.
- Consultant team emphasized that input is always welcome, and encouraged emails, meeting attendance – “we cannot have too much information.”
  - Want to make sure the LPC feels fully informed in making decisions about projects to recommend for NY Forward funding.

### 3. Open Call for Projects

- An Open Call for Projects form will be released soon and available for 6-8 weeks. Project sponsors will have the opportunity to meet with consultant team members during an “office hours” type event that will be announced.
- Open Call for Projects form can be featured at same locations and in same materials as described above (Mayor newsletter, library)

#### **4. Opportunities and Challenges**

- Water/River is #1 opportunity. Lots of through-traffic. How to get people out of their cars and boats to stop for a drink on the water, for breakfast, etc. There isn't a breakfast place downtown.
- How to balance supporting growth while preserving what people know and love about Phoenix?
- There are good businesses here but no critical mass to attract people.
- Parking isn't a meaningful challenge. Typically, morning traffic is ok.

#### **5. LPC Logistics**

- Availability of committee members to meet:
  - Tuesday to Thursday typically preferred, while Fridays do not work. Mondays can work if needed. After 4pm is best.
- Next meeting dates:
  - The second LPC Meeting will take place in early- to mid-July.
  - The first public meeting will be scheduled for late June.
  - Meeting dates will be added to the project website once they are confirmed.

#### **6. Mayor Remarks**

Mayor Brian Borchik thanked LPC members for their participation and members of the public for their interest. He also acknowledged the effort that went into completing the Village's application.

#### **7. Public Comments**

Twelve community members signed in to observe the meeting. Several provided comments during the public comment period at the end of the LPC's meeting.

- Concern about how project sponsors are held accountable to do what they say they will do.
  - Award agreements between State agencies and project sponsor outline expectations.
- Can a project sponsor have more than one project?
  - Sponsor capacity is one of the criteria the consultant team and LPC will evaluate – is it reasonable to assume they can complete more than one project within the 2-3 year timeframe?
- What if the LPC or public have ideas to make a proposed project better?
  - Feedback will be shared with project sponsors but they're not obligated to make changes.
- What is timeline for project award announcements?
  - State may announce projects selected for NY Forward funding in early 2024.

#### **Comment cards:**

- I think the idea of Oswego to have a goal to bring people here to spend a few hours here to eat, shop, and walk around is perfect. As someone who has only lived here a short

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- time, [we need] more restaurant and food opportunities/choices, as well as things related to the history of the Village. Keep it a small-town feel.
- You should look into the Corps of Engineers CWIFP program for water treatment plan funding. Project ideas:
    - Replace Volney St/Culvert/Main St intersection with traffic circle.
    - Beautify/Remove electrical structure on Culvert and State Street.
    - Explore work across river on Oswego St
    - Ice skating/hockey space which can be used in summer for rollerblading.
    - Electronic sign for library
    - Snow mobile trail?
    - Consider integration with Oswego and Onondaga County plans.
    - How can Phoenix leverage undeveloped space on 481? Potential for decentralized parking...
    - Mixed-use property – retail, residential
  - Comment card:
    - Signs at Post office, Circle K, local businesses
    - Digital signs at VFW, Medicine Place, Fire Station
    - Music in the Park – make announcements, use cars as billboards.
    - Bridge House Brats – utilize them to place signs for advertising to seniors.
  - Who will administer the revolving loan fund? Village? DOS? Will this fund allow for retail operators to open a business in subsequent years or will this have a set period of time?

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Please send questions, comments or corrections regarding the meeting notes to Steve Kearney (steve.kearney@stantec.com).

**Stantec Consulting Services Inc.**

Steve Kearney

Principal

[steve.kearney@stantec.com](mailto:steve.kearney@stantec.com)

\* Potential NY Forward boundary discussed during the LPC meeting. Several potential changes were discussed.

