

Village of Phoenix - NY Forward Local Planning Committee Meeting #2

Meeting Notes

Date/Time	July 13, 2023 / 5-7pm
Place:	White Pines Commons, 61 Davis Street
LPC Attendees:	Mayor Brian Borchik , Co-Chair Austin Wheelock , Executive Director of Operation Oswego County, Co-Chair John Adolphi , Adolphi Real Estate Brendan Backus , Lock 1 Distilling Co Amy Boyzuck , Great Bear Childcare LLC Natalie Curran , Village of Phoenix Public Library Paul Griser , Village of Phoenix Trustee
LPC Not in Attendance:	Sheila Dion , Erin's Angels Sally Woolson , Phoenix Community Garden
State/Consultant Team Attendees:	Holly Granat , New York State (NYS) Department of State (DOS) Steve Kearney , Stantec Phil Schaeffing , Stantec

The Village of Phoenix's second NY Forward Local Planning Committee (LPC) meeting took place on Thursday, July 13, 2023, at White Pines Commons. The meeting's purpose was to review planning process updates, present and discuss highlights of the Downtown Profile, and discuss the revised vision statement and draft goals. Steve Kearney and Phil Schaeffing from Stantec presented the attached slideshow.

Welcome

- LPC Co-Chair Austin Wheelock presented the LPC code of conduct to remind members to always act in the public interest.
- LPC member Brenden Backus stated that he will be involved in a pending project application for Lock 1 Distilling.
 - No recusal needed at this time as specific projects were not discussed at this meeting.

Planning Process Updates

- Steve Kearney reviewed the [NY Forward webpage](#) on the Village website which includes a [public survey](#) open until August 25, the Open Call for Projects which closes July 23, the consultant team's pop-up event outreach at the Strawberry Fest on June 23 which engaged

more than 150 people, the NY Forward boundary revised based on feedback from the first LPC meeting, and components of the draft Public Engagement Plan (PEP).

- An LPC member asked if the Open Call for Projects deadline is for both private and public projects. The consultant team confirmed that both private property or business owners and the Village will need to submit forms by July 23 to be considered by the LPC.
- An LPC member mentioned that many older residents visiting the library haven't heard about the NY Forward process yet. The PEP should include ways to reach them (printed flyers at the library and other means).
- Another LPC member mentioned that the Village's newsletter will be published soon. It's distributed to every household and printed copies will be available at the library – it should include NY Forward updates.
- Phil Schaeffing presented an overview of themes heard from the public discussion at the first public meeting held June 27. Forty-two people attended, including five LPC members, and five online surveys were submitted after the event to provide additional input.
 - An LPC member commented that the feedback at the meeting reflects community priorities that have been shared for a long time.

Downtown Profile Highlights

- Steve Kearney presented demographic highlights from the Downtown Profile, a work in progress the consultant team is producing that will tell the story of the Canal Waterfront District to set up the vision, goals, and projects recommended for NY Forward funding at the end of the planning process.

LPC Discussion

1. Downtown Profile

- “Small, quaint, small-town feel” – these sentiments came through clearly at public meeting and we don't want to lose that with new projects.
- The canal is a huge part of the village's history and what we are today. Boaters are huge for businesses.
- Our parks are important to highlight too – other waterfront towns don't do as much along the river as we do (music in the park, etc.).
- The main street for downtown businesses [State St] isn't the route that people use to travel through the village, so it's easy to miss. Phoenix isn't just Routes 264 and 57. That makes signage and other strategies important.
- The Village and businesses are already thinking about potential Micron impacts. Some supporting businesses could locate in the industrial park just outside the village. Housing, entertainment, and other supporting elements will also be needed. The County is anticipating significant population growth which means more customers for businesses, housing needed, etc.

2. Revised Vision and Draft Goals

- The LPC felt the revised vision statement accurately reflects what was heard at the public meeting. No changes were suggested.
- Draft goals:
 - Housing is an issue and not listed as a goal. There's low inventory/availability and costs can be high.
 - How can NY Forward achieve more housing? Should the goal be to "encourage" more?
 - The family-feel here is also part of the quaint small-town feel. What is available for kids and teenagers to do? A skate park and splash pad were mentioned at public meeting.
 - What is public "realm"? Not clear to most people. Public "spaces" better.
 - Is "public realm" term too generic or will strategies provide more detail?

3. Other Discussion

- September public meeting date: check when school open house will be held, don't want to conflict with it

4. Public Comments

Fifteen community members signed in to observe the meeting and one person joined via Zoom. Several provided comments during the public comment period at the end of the LPC's meeting.

- Locktoberfest [9/30] could be another chance for a pop-up event to promote NY Forward
- The library would be a good place to have paper flyers about meetings and paper copies of the public survey. Older residents would prefer that.
- The Village has plans to submit six project forms. When will the public see them?
 - All projects submitted during the Open Call for Projects will be shared at the public meeting in September and at upcoming LPC meetings.
- The goals should be in the community's language. Changing "public realm" to "public spaces" is a good change.
- [via Zoom] Should the project form be filled out by hand and scanned or is there a fillable online form?
 - The pdf online can be filled out digitally, saved, and emailed (preferred method). Printed copies can also be submitted to the Village office.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.

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

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