City of Poughkeepsie
Waterfront Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda

Common Council Chambers
Tuesday, June 28, 2022
6:00 PM

I. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

1. Approval of April 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes
Motion: ___________
Second: __________
Carried: __________

II. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. LWRP Update

- Proposed Changes by Common Council
- Discuss revised Consistency Review process

2. New Business

POUGHKEEPSIE WATERFRONT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Poughkeepsie Planning Division
62 Civic Center Plaza, 2nd Floor
Poughkeepsie, NY 12602
(845) 451-4055

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 26, 2022 MEETING

Members Present: Europa McGovern (Chair), Lia Harris, Michael Young, Harvey Flad

Members Absent: Terriciena Brown, Jim Nelson

Also Present: Natalie Quinn, Development Director

Meeting called to order: 6:04 PM

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Lia Harris and seconded by Harvey Flad to receive in print and adopt the meeting minutes for the meetings held on January 25, 2022 and March 26, 2022.

II. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. **Old Business / Updates**
    i. **LWRP Update**

Director Natalie Quinn reports that Common Council and staff continue to work with Emily Svenson, who was hired by the Council to make final edits to the document. Recommended changes are currently being discussed by both parties.

Chair McGovern requests that the WAC be provided with a timeline for updates once one is available so that the Commission can track the process. They look forward to being able to use the updates LWRP for consistency reviews as soon as possible.

Once changes have been agreed upon and document is moving towards approval, it was decided that the WAC should focus on any revisions they would like to make to the consistency review process and logistics. For example, should the applicant or staff complete the consistency review form? It was suggested that the committee combine that consistency review document in the LWRP appendix with the old form that reviews the LWRP policy by policy. Language should also be added to the form that directs applicants where to search for specific information within the document.

There was also discuss of an “end of year report” that should be submitted to the Common Council and presented during the Common Council agenda section set aside for “reports from boards and committees.”

Committee deviated from order of posted agenda since Director Quinn needed to leave meeting early

ii. Hudson River Estuary Program CAD Design Update

The PDF versions of the student designs have been circulated to the committee and posted along with this meeting agenda. CAD program staff are still working on compiling a final report that provides more narrative to walk you through the design concepts. The City will not need to identify one design to move to the second phase of funding, but should identify concepts that resonate and should be explored further.

2. New Business

Lia Harris brings up the Hudson River Estuary Grant program that is currently accepting applications. The City does not have a designated grant writer, but if the Committee were to review the three grant areas and propose relevant projects, those could be presented to the City Administration for consideration. The grant opportunity focuses on access to the river. One project idea mentioned was updating the boat launch at Kaal Rock Park. Lia and Europa offered to review the grant opportunity and report back at the next WAC meeting. Applications are due June 1st.

Director Quinn makes a note that on the city’s website there is currently a job posting for the position of Planning Director that the City is looking to fill.

1. Old Business / Updates

iii. Southern Waterfront Task Force Update

The Task Force had a goal of creating short term and long term recommendations, which they did. Identified priorities included siting of water dependent uses, access to the public, creation of places to assemble, etc. All reports and materials are posted online on the city’s website. It was stated that the survey results collected by the task force were similar to the survey that was run by BFJ as part of the LWRP update.

Regarding immediate recommendations, the task force identified actions such as removing debris, providing access for parking, adding an access point to the parking lot that is currently the southern lower parking lot that's at the moment only accessible from Grandview, remove the existing chain link fence which blocks the site and move it further south on the property to allow access to the north end of the property that has fewer logistical obstacles. The focus of the short term recommendations was to make the space open for a walkway along the shoreline.

A challenge for the site and short term recommendations is that a bulkhead runs the length of the shoreline on this site, which sits several feet above the main waterline. There was significant discuss regarding a proposed fence or railing, hazards and insurance concerns relating to this factor, budgeting for the improvements, and release of an RFP to seek a contractor to complete the work.

It was further discussed that the long-term recommendations focused on encouraging public access, creation of public space and recreational assets, fostering economic benefits, and collaborating with partners to program the site

Minimal action has been taken to implement any of the recommendations at this point. Debris has been cleared from the site and some paving was done off of Rinaldi Drive.

There was further discussion of the desired recreational amenities identified through the Task Force survey as well as access through the tunnel under the rail line. There was discussion of a need to look at the full shoreline when considering the siting of recreational amenities. Some parks and shoreline are better suited for specific interventions.

There was further discussion of what plantings and soft shorelines might be possible and feasible on the site due to the existing bulkhead and cap over contaminated soils.

A motion was made by Michael Young and seconded by Lia Harris to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 PM.