

CITY OF NORWICH
PLANNING COMMISSION
OCTOBER 21, 2024, 6:30 PM
CITY COURT, NORWICH, NY

PRESENT: John Antonowicz Marissa Phelps
 Matt Gladstone Mark Parker
 Adrienne Zornow

ALSO: Erik Scrivener, Community Development Director
 Fred Gee, Ward 2 Alderman
 Amy Donnison, Code Enforcement Officer
 Eric Larsen, Friends of the Parks

ABSENT: Kyra Collier, Chris Hayes

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Planning Commission was called to order at 6:30 PM

PRESENTATION

Eric L presented the plans for the update to South Broad Street Park. The park will be converted into more of a natural park that will include walking trails, a new 30'x60' pavilion, public art and other amenities. The existing playground equipment and pavilion will be removed. This project is funded by numerous foundations in the city. Currently the city has an agreement with the property owner to maintain the park, and that agreement will continue. Eric L is hoping to break ground in May/June 2025 on this project.

DISCUSSION

Following the presentation the first agenda item was to review the SEQR application that was submitted for the parks project. The project is considered an Unlisted Action and a SEAF was completed. The commission had reviewed the documents and asked questions about lighting, the proposed parking lot, and flooding. Eric L discussed the measures the engineers were taking to address these matters. Erik S asked for a recommendation from the Planning Commission for a negative declaration as there were little or no environmental impacts on the project. Matt G made the motion and Marissa P seconded. All were in favor.

Erik S presented the taglines that were created by a subcontractor for downtown Norwich as part of the Placemaking Initiative. Erik S presented the thoughts of the steering committee, that the taglines missed the mark and they were not in favor of moving forward with any of the options. The Planning Commission agreed and recommended additional ideas.

The commission has been asked to review the Peddling and Soliciting ordinance in the city. The discussion was tabled until the November meeting.

Matt G discussed the progress of the 2050 Vision Plan. A draft copy was available on the website and a 2-week comment period was open. All commissioners were encouraged to review the plan and provide any feedback.

OTHER

Erik S gave an update on other initiatives in the city. A Parks and Recreation Master Plan is starting and will be completed in 2025. This will provide an action plan and priority projects for the parks including connections to parks in the city and other recreation outside of the city.

The Chenango County IDA purchased 23 East Main Street and there are plans to reconstruct the building for a childcare center on the first floor, and the second floor will serve as the Commerce Chenango offices.

The City of Norwich will be serving as the project administrator for the East/West Parks Project funded by the DRI. This was going to be administered by the BID, but there were difficulties in moving forward with them as the administrator. The city is waiting for approval by NYS on this request.

ADJOURNMENT:

Marissa P made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32PM. Mark P seconded. All were in favor.