

Section VIII - Obtaining Local Commitment

Obtaining Local Commitment

1. Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Citizens Advisory Committee (LWRPCAC).

The Mayor of the Village established an LWRP CAC at the start of the program development. The CAC consists of nine members, made up of local citizenry with varying interests, a Village Trustee to head the CAC and serve as liaison to the Village Board and various department heads in Village government.

2. LWRP CAC Organizational Meeting/Role/Schedule

A CAC organizational meeting was held on Tuesday, November 22, 1983. All CAC members were in attendance.

- Introduction for Preparing the LWRP Document
- List of State Coastal Policies

The following Village submittals:

- Preliminary Application - Local Waterfront Revitalization Program
- Work Programs (With Task Description and Products)

At the organizational meeting the CAC was instructed as to their duties, responsibilities and task assignments. The CAC served as a reviewing body, making comments on task submittals, furnishing background data for various tasks and providing input to each task's development. The CAC was informed that their role was clearly one of an advisory nature and not decision making. Program elements and policy changes can only be suggested, reviewed or modified by the CAC - ultimate authority lies with the Village Board.

Resource Locations/Materials

The Village maintains a library of all task materials developed for the LWRP. Materials will be made available for public review at the Village municipal building and at the Village's Public Library. All task submittals, pertinent correspondence, meeting notes, agendas and summaries, and public agency comments will be placed in these libraries and continually updated.

Developing Support for LWPR among Agencies, Organizations and the General Public

1. Meetings

A minimum of four CAC meetings were held during preparation of key tasks. Two general public meetings and a public hearing at the conclusion of the LWRP were held for SEQR requirements and

formal adoption of the program. All meetings were open to the public and interested groups. Meetings were advertised and summary notes of any action(s) made.

2. Documentation

The Village documented all public participation activities. Documentation activities range from posting notices, meeting agendas and attendance sheets to supplying summaries of meetings and responses to CAC members, outside agencies, interested groups and the Village Board itself. Some of the methods utilized to obtain involvement of local groups were through advertisement of meetings in local publications, mailing list notification, notice posting and CAC member's invitations to special interest group members, etc.

Local Commitment

The public participation activities for an effective LWRP must be viewed as a two part process. Initially, the program required the creation of the public participation "mechanisms". The mechanisms include CAC formation, meeting schedules, role assignments and formats for public notification and involvement. This first phase established the foundation for the more important aspect of public participation (obtaining local commitment), in that it established the continual and dynamic process for public input. Throughout the program, continual and orderly public participation was planned.

The Village Board has embraced the purpose and intent of the LWRP. As the governing body of the Village, they are responsible for ultimate approval and implementation of the LWRP. The Board takes an active interest in the LWRP Program and the Mayor has designated a Village Trustee to serve as chairman of the CAC. This provides the linkage necessary from the advisory CAC to the decision making Village Board.

Public Participation Responsiveness Section

This section contains a summary of the meetings that were conducted during the LWRP and the topics covered. The primary vehicle for obtaining local commitment centered on the meeting and reporting process of the Citizen's Advisory Committee Meetings. These meetings were held informally and all mailing list members were invited. Because of the membership of the Advisory Committee the feedback to the Village Board and other units of local government was greatly enhanced. The procedure for each meeting involved prior submittal of Task(s) to be reviewed, a meeting notice (mailed), agenda and sign-in sheet. Task submittals were discussed at each meeting, followed by a discussion of upcoming Tasks. The Committee members were asked to participate and provide information for upcoming tasks so that their input could be incorporated in those products. Each meeting was summarized and the results of the meeting and program status were routinely reported to the Village Board.

To date, one public informational meeting was held, four Citizen's Advisory Committee Meetings, two briefings and review sessions with the Village Board (status reports were issued at several Board Meetings), and routine consultation with affected agencies occurred throughout program development.

A summary of the meetings held and topics covered follows:

Meeting: LWRP Scoping Meeting - Albany
Date: November 14, 1983

Purpose/Topic: Establish LWRP schedule, submittal dates and requirements, objectives and budget.

Attendees: Village Clerk, Engineers, and NYSDOS Representative
Meeting: CAC Meeting No. 1
Date: November 22, 1983

Purpose/Topic: Explanation of the LWRP process, the role of the CAC, description of tasks and products, due dates and budgets. At this meeting the LWRP instructions (DOS) were handed out to each member along with the Informational Packet.

Meeting: CAC Meeting No. 2
Date: January 10, 1984

Purpose/Topic: Review Task 1 (Inventory), discuss boundary area and revisions, prioritize 44 coastal policies to establish local relevance. Initiated discussion on projects/programs.

Meeting: CAC Meeting No. 3
Date: February 21, 1985

Purpose/Topic: Reviewed revised boundary and completed coastal policy statements. Finalized projects and programs including a detailed discussion of coastal street ends.

Meeting: Review Session No. 1 - Village Board
Date: October 1, 1984

Purpose/Topic: Initiate discussion and dialogue on management and implementation strategies including zoning, code revisions, assignment of roles and responsibilities.

Meeting: Review Session No. 2 - Village Board
Date: November 5, 1984

Purpose/Topic: Review the projects and programs (Task 4) with Village Board and management/implementation strategy outline issues for upcoming Public Information Meeting.

Meeting: Public Informational Meeting No. 1
Date: December 4, 1984

Purpose/Topic: Public informational meeting to present results of Tasks 1-4 and receive input. All LWRP tasks and objectives were discussed, with in depth discussion of first four tasks. The Meeting was advertised in the Village's official newspaper, the Niagara Gazette. A public informational hand-out was supplied (See Attachment No. 2).

Meeting: CAC Meeting No. 4 - Special (Consultation with affected agencies).
Date: April 25, 1985

Purpose/Topic: Review of Task 6 and 7. Guest speakers from invited agencies presented their respective agencies viewpoints, concerns and requirements.