

## A. INTRODUCTION

### 1. WATERFRONT PLANNING

The City of North Tonawanda has been actively involved in waterfront planning and revitalization activities since March 1983 when the City's Waterfront Commission was created. Membership on the Commission includes representatives from the local business community, individuals with a knowledge of recreational boating, residents interested in public access to the waterfront and people who are committed to waterfront revitalization objectives. The Mayor appoints the members of the Commission, and the Council approves the appointments. The Mayor plays a key leadership role on the Commission in her capacity as chief executive officer of the City. The Commission discusses ideas and concerns with the three Council representatives whose districts include waterfront areas. Further, the Commission meets with the entire five-person Council as appropriate to present and review ideas and concepts.

### 2. INTER- MUNICIPAL COOPERATION

The North Tonawanda Waterfront Commission has worked cooperatively with the City of North Tonawanda Commission, as well as elected officials from both communities to develop and implement a canal improvement project. The project, which includes the construction of 500 linear feet of transient docking facilities (300 in North Tonawanda and 200 in Tonawanda) along the Barge Canal was completed in July 1985. State resources in the amount of \$130,000, supplemented by local resources, provided the funds for this activity. Additional state resources have been secured by both North Tonawanda (\$30,000) and Tonawanda (\$33,000) to install electrical and lighting improvements.

## B. PROCEDURES

### 1. OVERVIEW

The City's Waterfront Commission has been and continues to be an effective vehicle for information exchange and the coordination of waterfront activities. Since the Commission is both an active and visible municipal advisory committee, its role in the LWRP has been two fold: (1) to provide time on a volunteer basis to formulate the LWRP and (2) to receive and review recommendations from the community - to serve as a forum - which is central to the process of obtaining local commitment. Working cooperatively with residents, the Mayor, the Council and the City Attorney, the Commission provides the framework for community discussion approval.

The responsibilities, functions and procedures followed by the Commission are discussed below. Information on other methods that will assist in the dissemination of information and community review process are also discussed.

## 2. WATERFRONT COMMISSION

Responsibilities/Functions: All waterfront matters are referred directly to the Commission by the Mayor and Common Council. The Commission is responsible for evaluating waterfront issues and initiatives that will affect the City and for making recommendations on these considerations to the Council. The Commission is also directly involved in the development of the LWRP. Program tasks will be reviewed by both the Council and the Commission. The knowledge and interest of members provide valuable assistance in identifying needs, opportunities and problems.

Process: The Commission's meetings are held in City Hall and are open to the public. Meetings are publicized in the Tonawanda News, the City's official newspaper. In addition to regularly scheduled meetings, additional meeting specifically to receive public review and comment of LWRP elements were held. The agenda for these meetings and a supplementary narrative will be provided to the Tonawanda News so that residents in the community are made aware of the purpose of the public meetings. Summary information will be provided at the meetings to ensure that people understand the objectives of the LWRP including the importance of obtaining local commitment.