

DRI Report to Village of Aurora Board
September 18, 2024

The Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) has awarded \$10 million to the Villages of Aurora, Union Springs and Cayuga.

We are the four members of the Local Planning Committee (LPC) representing the Village of Aurora. Throughout the Spring and Summer we have met with our full committee with representatives from all three villages, New York State officials and consultants who are guiding this process.

Public Meeting 2 will be held on September 16 from 6-8 pm at the Union Springs Fire Hall. We invite all of you to attend to see the full scope of the proposals that have been submitted for consideration.

We want to provide a brief update on the proposals submitted by the Village of Aurora:

Construction of a Southern Gateway Waterfront Park in Aurora.

The Village is seeking \$898,000 to construct a park and greenspace with parking, trails, picnic areas, swim beach and paddle craft launch/storage. This proposal appears to be complete and has generally been viewed favorably when discussed by the committee.

Aurora Community Park at 165-185 Main Street

The Village is seeking \$1,250,000 for this project on property adjacent to the Wells Boathouse. This proposal is still evolving. Use of the Former President's House for community space and offices has been removed from the proposal. The proposal includes construction of pickleball and basketball courts, new parking, new walking path and a new dock.

There is concern among the LPC members that this property may not be able to be obtained by the Village in time to receive DRI funding. We have been advised by New York State officials and the consultants working on this project that it is possible to submit an amendment to this proposal which includes an alternative plan if the Village of Aurora is unable to obtain this property.

We suggest that the Village Board approve an amendment to this proposal that would provide an alternative plan if the Village is unable to obtain the property at 165-185 Main Street:

--alternatively, tennis/pickleball/basketball courts will be constructed at 456 Main Street (behind Fire House) on land already owned by the Village which is important when we seek support of entire LPC

--alternatively, a public dock would be built in the Village Park behind the Post office on land that is already owned by the Village which is important when we seek support of entire LPC

--the \$1,250,000 request to the DRI remains the same, but may be decreased if the Village uses the alternative options.

We ask that you approve these alternative proposals to insure that Aurora is eligible for these DRI funds for recreational activities that are needed in the Village.

Also, note that it is not too late to add a proposal for Village office space/public space if there is still an interest.

Frank Losurdo
Alyssa Gunderson
Linda Dugan
David Eckhardt