

Dunkirk Downtown Revitalization Initiative

Public Workshop #3 Meeting Summary

November 2, 2023 | 5:00PM – 7:00 PM, Dunkirk High School Cafeteria

Introduction

The Dunkirk Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) Public Workshop #3 was held on Thursday, November 3 2023, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Dunkirk High School Cafeteria located at 75 West 5th Street, Dunkirk, NY. The purpose of the workshop was to review the DRI planning process, provide a summary of recommended projects, describe implementation and next steps, and celebrate the conclusion of the Dunkirk DRI planning process.

The Dunkirk Local Planning Committee (LPC) selected 16 projects representing \$15 million in recommended DRI funding for the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP). From the SIP, New York State will select \$9.7 million in projects to award DRI funding. Awards will be announced in early 2024.

The workshop was promoted to the public via local news media, social media, the Dunkirk DRI public mailing list, flyers posted in the community, and LPC member networks. The meeting was attended by 31 participants.

Presentation

The workshop opened with welcoming remarks from Mayor Wilfred Rosas, followed by a presentation on the DRI planning process. Members from the DRI consultant team, WSP, presented an overview of the planning process, public engagement including outreach to traditionally hard-to-reach populations, the project evaluation process, summaries of each recommended project, project implementation, and next steps.

Open House

The presentation was followed by an open house portion of the workshop with information about each of the 16 projects recommended for DRI funding displayed on easel-mounted boards throughout the room. Members of the Dunkirk DRI consultant team, Local Planning Committee, state agency partners, and City staff, were available to answer questions about projects and discuss issues and opportunities.

Public Comments

Public comments about the DRI process and recommended projects are summarized below.

- There is a sculpture of Neptune currently at SUNY Fredonia that was originally in Dunkirk. This sculpture should be brought back to Dunkirk and showcased along the waterfront or other highly visible area to highlight Dunkirk's connection to the water.
- There is need to invest in the former NRG power plant and encourage mixed-use development. It could be used as a production museum and support tourism with boat access.
- There was concern that hosting musical performances and other events in the proposed amphitheater at Memorial Park will be disrespectful to the Veterans' memorial.
 - If this project is selected by the State for DRI funding, the City will work with the Veterans Association to integrate the project into the park and provide the opportunity for a wide range of community-based organizations to use the facilities for events and programming.
- A tour boat operator in Dunkirk could be connected to the Clarion Hotel.
- The Dunkirk Marina gas station is not always staffed. Will two marina gas stations be redundant?