

Open Work Session

Federal, State, and Local Funding for the Development of Pirate's Wharf

October 16, 2018

Mr. Steve Miller, Director of Recreation, Parks and Tourism, and Mrs. Pam Oland, Deputy Director of Recreation, Parks and Tourism came before Council. Mr. Miller said they are here to talk about the future development of Pirate's Wharf into a park, and, in particular, today they want to talk about grant funding the County was recently awarded. He said he would like to touch very briefly on three basic topics, the first being to tell them about the grant. Mr. Joe Holloway then asked if it should be said that it is a matching grant, to which Mr. Miller responded, yes, and he will get to that.

Mr. Miller said first he would like to tell Council about the grant the County received, and, secondly, he would like to tell them why they received it, according to the State representatives they worked with, and then thirdly, as Mr. Joe Holloway mentioned, he will talk about the matching requirements, and their plan to match the grant award.

Mr. Miller said the grant award they received is a Federal Grant through the Land Water Conservation Fund that is funded through the National Park Service, and administered through the State, so it is a competitive process that is routed through the State. He explained, several Counties applied, and Wicomico County was one of two who received a grant, and they received, by far, the largest grant award, so both the State and the Federal folks felt like this was a very worthwhile project that hit some of their key targets. He reported, they received a grant award letter in the amount of \$820,000, and it is a 50/50 match grant, which he will reference in a moment. He said the way it functions is very similar to Program Open Space (POS) in terms of its restrictions. He said, if they were to receive this grant, it is perpetual use for Recreation and Parks usage, public access, and those types of things, very similar to POS. He said one of the unique restrictions that is not the same as POS is that they prohibit any kind of agricultural leases. He said, currently, they have a farm lease at the property that expires at the end of December. He said they have notified the farmer that, upon acceptance of this grant, the lease would expire, and they would no longer have a lease there as far as farm lease. He said there are other restrictions, but, essentially, it is very similar to POS. He said that, in a nutshell, is the grant for \$820,000.

Mr. Miller said he will talk about why they received the grant, and the feedback they received from the State as, again, this routed through the State as far as the application process. He reported, last year the County Executive appointed a work group of 12, which was a pretty wide range of folks, and that is in the packet of materials given to Council as far as who participated. He explained, over a six-month process, they did site visits, had several meetings, surveys, and various things to give recommendations to the Executive as to how to potentially develop this property. He said, after the work group's work was completed, they, essentially, provided three main objectives for the property. He said number one was to provide public water access on the Wicomico River, number two was to provide low-impact recreational opportunities, which might include things like hiking or bird watching, which are very low-impact type activities, and the third main objective was to keep the features of the park as natural as possible. He said Council heard some of those concerns today, but the work group felt strongly that the park should not be overdeveloped, should remain as natural as possible, and give public access. He said those were the main components of their Federal grant application, and, as he said, they received the largest grant award of any County in the State because it fits with the objectives of the State, which are water access, trails, and public access, so they are, obviously, very in line with State and National goals as far as those types of activities. He said that is the feedback they received as to why they got grant consideration, and, ultimately, got the award.

Mr. Miller said, in terms of matching funds, and this is in Council's packet, but it is a 50/50 match grant, so the County has to match \$820,000, and they can match that with both State and local funding. He said their plan, as they have submitted to Council, is primarily State funding, but also local funding. He said, in terms of the State funding, they have already submitted applications through both POS and the Waterway Improvement Fund, and those applications have been submitted. He said they have not heard back on those, but they do not anticipate any issues, particularly with POS. He clarified, they had to work through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to get this Federal grant to move forward, and POS lines up with those initiatives, so they do not anticipate an issue there. Mr. Dodd asked if Mr. Miller had told Council at one time that they were having difficulty receiving funding from POS in the past few years, to which Mr. Miller responded, the Governor fully restored it this past year, so their numbers went up. Mr. Dodd asked if it is fully restored, to which Mr. Miller responded, yes. He said for a while it had shrunk over the years, but it has been restored, thankfully, which makes a big difference.

Mr. Miller said they have applied for \$315,000 through POS, which they have in their unencumbered balance with the State through that program. He said they have also applied for \$200,000 of Waterway Improvement Funding, which is also a State grant program. He said the remainder would be County funding, but this is funding that is already on hand, and they are not asking for any new money. He explained, in last year's CIP, Council approved \$100,000 to pursue a master plan, and that would be included as part of this project, so that is money they already have. He said, for the additional funding, they are requesting a transfer of funds of \$254,000 from the Recreation and Parks reserve, which is going back through FY2008, all the lease payments at Pirate's Wharf, so that includes the house lease, the farming lease, and the hunting lease. He said, per POS, those monies have to be set aside for the project, so they are requesting those funds be transferred to help them fulfill the match requirements. He said, if approved, when it is all said and done, they would have a little over \$1.6 million dollars to develop the property, which would include a master plan, and they would not be asking the County for any additional funds, but just the transfer of funds that are in the Recreation and Parks reserves.

Mr. Miller said that is, essentially, an overview, and Mrs. Oland can get into the nitty gritty on the matching funds, or he would be happy to answer any questions on the project itself, timelines, or anything Council wants to talk about.

Mr. Kilmer asked, if they do not get the State grants, would the County have to come up with matching funds, to which Mr. Miller responded, yes, but he does not anticipate that at all because, as he said, with POS they already have that money in POS, and they have to go through a process. He said the waterway funding would be dependent on the County having the ability to put in a boat ramp, and they will not know that until they go through the master planning process, permitting, and working with the Army Corps whether or not that can be done safely. He said, if it is not a possibility, they would then increase their POS next year, which would defer other projects. He clarified, they would have that money available, but it would defer other projects. Mr. Kilmer said, essentially, if the County accepts this \$820,000, they are committed to spending, in some form or another, another \$820,000 on this, to which Mr. Miller responded, yes, they have to match it. Mr. Kilmer then asked, if the County accepts the grant, do they turn over the \$820,000 to the County, to which Mrs. Oland responded, it is a reimbursement grant like all of their other grants. Mr. Kilmer asked, when the County does work, do they submit it and then get reimbursed based on that, to which Mrs. Oland responded, correct. Mr. Kilmer asked, if they do not approve it, and they say the County cannot do that with this money, would it then not get reimbursed, to which Mrs. Oland responded, that is correct, but their intention would be to show them what their master plan is, and how it meets the goals of that grant, thus, their intention is not to undertake anything that would not be reimbursable.

Mr. Joe Holloway asked, if the grant is for \$820,000, and if the County could only come up with \$600,000 in matching, is that all they would get, or do they have to come up with the \$820,000 match, to which Mr. Miller responded, they would need to commit to coming up with the \$820,000 match. He said, as he said, they get an annual allocation from the State through POS, so it is not ideal because there are other projects they would like to use POS funding for, but, if they had to, that would be the route they would go. Mr. Joe Holloway asked if there is a time limit on this, to which Mr. Miller responded, it is four years. He clarified, for the Federal grant, they have a four-year obligation to complete the project. Mr. Joe Holloway said he was telling somebody this morning that he is glad to see this moving ahead, but he is going to have to find something else to complain about. He said that property has been sitting there for a long, long time without anything being done to it, and he guesses he has kind of used it a little bit when some other project comes along so he could ask about the Pirate's Wharf property still sitting there. He said he is glad to see this moving along, but he does worry about the issue of them having to match this, and that is a concern. He said the term he keeps hearing is low-impact, but he does not know where that line is drawn. He said they heard about the walking trails, and now he is hearing about a boat ramp. He then asked where that line is drawn as far as low-impact goes, to which Mr. Miller responded, as Mrs. Oland noted, hopefully by next week they will be starting a master plan process, and the way that would unfold is that would happen between now and June, and their tentative timeline would be between now and February to have some kind of conceptual on a map so Council could actually see what is being proposed. He said some of those questions will be answered in the next few months as far as that goes, and there would be the opportunity for the public to respond to what is being proposed, and probably have a couple of different options as to what they would do, and he thinks that is where some of those questions could be addressed as far as low-impact. He said, as far as the application itself, they did include water access, which would be a boat ramp and/or kayak launch, so some type of water access, and they included trails, but outside of some infrastructure they would need for the park, such as restrooms and those types of things, they did not submit anything that he thinks folks would consider overdeveloped. He said if they did veer from that path, he thinks National Parks would chime in on that because they have to approve all of this. Mr. Joe Holloway said there are not any other boat ramps between Salisbury and Nanticoke, so there probably is a need for a boat ramp there more so than just a kayak ramp. Mr. Miller said he thinks the big thing they are going to have to work through with Army Corps and through their master plan process is whether they can do it safely there because of the channel, and the various issues that have been discussed, but he thinks water access at some level needs to be strongly considered.

Mr. Kilmer said they are talking about low impact, but spending \$1.6 million dollars seems like a lot for hiking trails and parking. He then asked how they are going to spend \$1.6 million dollars because even a pavilion does not seem like it would cost that much, so it seems like a lot of money for low-impact, but maybe he is not thinking about how expensive these projects are, to which Mr. Miller responded, the low-impact is in terms of the recreational use, and not necessarily the cost. He said part of the project will be that the shoreline needs to be addressed in some way, so there is shoreline restoration, there will be infrastructure, there will be a trail system, and if there are structures like a boat ramp, that will be costly, but, when they look at the whole of the project as 340 acres, it will be a very relatively small footprint as to what is going to be developed, and it will be small. Mr. Kilmer said, after hearing from the community, he thinks the wooded section should have some trails, and that is about it. He said it will need a place to park, obviously, but not much in terms of what they have to spend money on. Mrs. Oland said the biggest expenses are going to be infrastructure costs associated with making the road usable for people to get back there, stabilizing the shoreline, as Mr. Miller mentioned, as that, unfortunately, is not a cheap prospect, and with any type of boat ramp. She said, with all the new regulations, they are finding that with trying to do, for example, the Riverside boat ramp, that just even

rebuilding one they already have is not a cheap proposition. She said \$1.6 million sounds like a lot, but when they are, basically, starting from raw land, it is going to go quicker than they would probably like. Mr. Miller said he will add that the \$1.6 million would also include the master plan, and the Federal grant requires an environmental assessment, which is going to look at both environmental and cultural impacts, and those are some of the things they heard about earlier today, so that would be going on. Mr. Kilmer asked if that would include archeological, to which Mr. Miller responded, yes. He said they will assess that, and then they will make a recommendation whether they should do a Phase 1, or what is necessary, but the initial assessment will include that. He said the process of the environmental assessment and the master plan will kind of happen together, so, as they learn the results, they can adjust the plan if they need to.

Mr. Dodd asked, with the shoreline stabilization, would that be riprap, to which Mrs. Oland responded, it would be what the Army Corps and DNR basically allow. She explained, it is really at that curve, and the current bulkhead there is pretty much nonexistent, so they are losing land, but, unfortunately it is at the narrowest part where the Wicomico bends. She said, as they make the turn with the tugs, she has been told they have to put on the engines hard, and it sends a lot back into that, so that area itself is going to have to have something done to maintain it so it does not totally erode. She clarified, she does not know what it is, but they will have to get the approvals, and do as they ask. Mr. Dodd asked if the boat ramp will require a paved parking lot, to which Mr. Miller responded, it will require a parking lot. Mr. Dodd asked if any of this has to be approved by the Critical Areas Commission, to which Mr. Miller responded, yes. Mr. Dodd asked if this is all pending approval, to which Mr. Miller responded, yes. He said, through this process, Maryland Historical Trust was mentioned earlier with the public comments, but they have already interfaced with them as they are part of the review process with the grant, and, as the master plan develops, they will be fully engaged with this process, and offer comments and recommendations. He said they have engaged all of those agencies, and will continue to do that, including Council and the public. He said, as it was said earlier, this has been sitting here for 25 years, and the thing he is excited about is public access, when this is all said and done. He said this will be a year's process, but when they get done, the public will have access, which is the end goal.

Mr. Joe Holloway said there has been talk of selling the Westside park property, so there will not be any ballfields built there. He then asked, with this farm land being cleared, is there any chance of any ballfields being built on this property, to which Mr. Miller responded, they have not discussed that, and he would say no. He said that would not fit with the objectives they outlined in this project as that would overdevelop it, and that is not what they are looking to do.

Mr. Kilmer said, in terms of the planning process, will there be a chance for people to give input in the beginning, and for people to give their ideas, or will they work on the master plan and then have people comment on the final master plan, and then have Council approve it, to which Mr. Miller responded, he thinks because they have gone through a process with the work group last year that gave them those three main objectives, and that is why they got this grant, he thinks their intention is to start the master planning process. He said then they will give the public something to look at because it could be a dartboard type thing that may not line up with the grant, and why they received this grant. He said their intention is to, hopefully, have something conceptual, and maybe some options by February, receive public feedback and input, in addition to all the different agencies they have to interact with, and then adjust the plan as needed. Mr. Kilmer asked if the final plan gets approved by Council, to which Mr. Miller responded, he thinks that would be an Executive question because he does not know the answer as far as that goes. Mr. Kilmer said he has heard from folks, and more than just the people in this room, that they would like more public input into what is happening, so he would encourage him to open this up as much as possible to the public and hear their ideas. He said everyone seems fairly pleased with a

lot of these ideas, but there is a worry that there has not been enough public comment or public input, and this has been kind of a flashpoint, so he thinks it would be easier to involve the public as much as possible at the beginning to make it smoother.

Mr. Cannon said he wanted to look at the application mainly because he was interested in trying to get an idea of where the interest came from, how the goals were set as far as what was needed, and how it followed suit. He said the only thing he saw, really, was that a work group was appointed of 12 people, and that 9 of them consistently participated in the polls, and he did not think that group was very representative of the entire County. He said he is being frank when he says he was very surprised. He said he thought there was going to be some type of major documentation that said all of the members of the County want this, or so many members in the community are looking for this, but the only thing he saw for this whole process was that there were 12 people appointed as a work group, and were told to tell the County why they want this, and then bring it back, and that was it. He said part of the justification in the application talked about how there were several opportunities for public hearings, etc., but he could not find this project in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as it was stated here. He said he found it in the budget under a capital item, but he could not find it in any CIP going back to 2014 that had Pirate's Wharf listed, so there was not any opportunity for the public to be involved in Pirate's Wharf because there was not any public hearing for Pirate's Wharf.

Mr. Miller said he has two points to make, and he hears what they are saying as far as the desire for more public input. He said he thinks those 12 individuals who were appointed represented many other folks. He said there were folks from the Natural Resource Commission who were part of that, and people who are involved with critical areas from the University, so he thinks it was a representative group, so that is one thing. He said he also thinks it represented a bigger segment, but certainly not the entire County. He said his other point is their Land Preservation Plan, which is the five-year plan, and Pirate's Wharf was mentioned in that, and they did do Countywide input, to which Mr. Cannon responded, it was very vague. He said, if anything, it was the seventh listed item as far as priorities, and it was very vague. He said it said nothing more than the fact that there would be consideration for the development of Pirate's Wharf, and there was nothing that extrapolated as far as exactly how far they were going to go, or what the costs might be, and nothing that he felt the public could look at and see that it is or is not a commitment, but just a general term. He said he was concerned by that. He said he understands what Mr. Joe Holloway is saying, and it is always good to have another place if someone wants to put a boat out, or wants to fish, or if the community wants to meet, but he is just curious as to the need for this based on what the costs might be, even overlooking the fact that everybody waves grants in their faces, which is very appealing, but there is still going to be a commitment on the part of the local community. He said maybe this is his shortcoming, but he also could not find any reference in the budget whatsoever on these leases. He said he knows they showed a copy of the check that was \$11,498, but he did not see anything in the budget under Recreation and Parks where it showed there was any income from any leases. He said, as a matter of fact, it showed that for 2018 to 2019 it was \$0, to which Mrs. Oland responded, these have been accounted for in the operating budget, and not in any kind of project or standalone. She said these monies have been coming in, and there is a schedule in Council's packet that gives account numbers of where these funds have been deposited. She said, with the hunting rights going away, they had stopped that process a year or so ago, so they did not put that in the budget, and, with the house going away, they had not put that in the budget. She said Munis, unfortunately, only shows them the current year budget, and because they were planning changes with the farmland, they did not budget for additional income associated with that, but it shows that income has been collected. She said she went back to 2008 since that was the first year of Munis, and that was the year they could then show that all of those monies have gone through Munis, and have gone through the accounting system that has been audited. Mr. Cannon said he was just looking at the line

item in the most recent budget, to which Mrs. Oland responded, they did not budget it in 2019 for the purposes of the fact that there is no house anymore to lease. Mr. Cannon said, the prior year it was listed as \$0 as well. He said he is not really worried about it, but he just thought that was an inconsistency, and he felt he would just bring it to their attention.

Mr. Kilmer said, to go off of what Mr. Cannon was saying, people have contacted him about this since it has been in the news, and they seem pretty pleased with the documents, the plans, and things like that, but he thinks there is a concern. He clarified, somebody said this was done behind closed doors, and people who are very interested in this did not know it was happening. He said, again, he thinks that people seem generally happy with the trails and things like that, so the more they can get community buy-in, the more it will be less contentious at the end of the plan. He said he thinks a lot of people were surprised there was a work group, and things like that. He said people who are very actively following this, and they all know there is a very committed group that is actively following this, did not seem to know about any of this, so that was their concern.

Mr. Joe Holloway asked if they are sure about what will happen if the County cannot come up with the matching grant. He said, in other words, if they told the Federal Government they can only match \$600,000, they would not do that amount instead of the \$800,000, to which Mr. Miller responded, they could request a reduction, but that could be seen unfavorably. Mr. Joe Holloway asked to who, to which Mr. Miller responded, to DNR who advocated on the County's behalf to get the grant. Mr. Joe Holloway asked how they came up with the \$800,000, and what drove them to come up with that figure, to which Mr. Miller responded, to be honest, they started at a lower figure, but more funding became available, and they felt like they could dedicate more through POS to increase that number. He said the \$820,000 is in combination with the farm lease, the hunting lease, and all that money that was saved up, and the grants they feel they are going to get. Mr. Joe Holloway then said, so they told them how much they had so they could match that, to which Mr. Miller responded, correct. He clarified, they gave a number they felt they could comfortably match without having to go to the County to say they need a lot of extra money. Mr. Davis said, if they do not match them, they do not let them convert that, and the County is going to have to fork it out, to which Mr. Miller responded, if the State grants did not come through, the County would need to look at other alternatives for funding. He clarified, as he said, this whole process through the Federal grant went through DNR, and DNR oversees POS, so he does not see any scenario where it would not be approved.

Mr. Dodd asked if Council was informed of this application process before they got notification of the grant, to which Mr. Miller responded, he does not believe in a formal way as far as the application. Mr. Dodd said it would have been nice so Council could start preparing, or at least start thinking about this.

Mr. Davis asked Mr. Miller when they need Council's approval. Mr. Cannon then asked, what is the next step, and where is this now, and where is it going to go, to which Mrs. Oland responded, the next step is that they are asking for this to be put on a Legislative Session to have the Fiscal Year 2019 budget amendment to allow them to transfer the \$254,000 out of the Recreation and Parks fund balance that has been saved up in the fund balance based on the documentation they have presented to move it to the project that has already been set up with the \$100,000. She said, when they get POS notification, they would then come back and ask for another amendment, and all that would require is an adjustment of the CIP because there would be no operating budget impact associated with that.

Mr. Davis asked how long they have to match the grant, to which Mr. Miller responded, they actually have presented this plan as part of the application process, so they understand that POS might be in next year's fiscal budget if they need to tap into it again, so they have through the duration of the project to match it. He clarified, they have to commit to match it, but they do not have to necessarily

have the money in hand because they understand that State funding is part of the equation. Mr. Dodd asked if that would be four years, to which Mr. Miller responded, yes, they have a four-year window.

Mr. Joe Holloway asked if in the master plan they can also include a basic maintenance plan for five-years after this project is completed so they will know about what it is going to cost to maintain this property depending on how it is developed, to which Mr. Miller responded, yes.

Mr. Cannon asked if Mr. Miller is saying that when they come back before Council there would be an actual plan as to what is going to be there, to which Mr. Miller responded, no. He clarified, they will need to consult with the Executive's Office on what they heard today, but he is suggesting that, at the minimum, they would come back sometime in February and present conceptals, so this would not be a final plan, but would be conceptals that the public could react to, and they could see what is being proposed and where, and then get input. He said, if more than that needs to happen, they will consult with the Executive's Office.

Mrs. Oland said, again, what they are asking for is this to be moved to a regular Legislative Session for a budget amendment, and to allow the County Executive to sign the grant, to which Mr. Cannon responded, he thinks they would want to see a plan first. He said that is just his opinion, but there are seven people here, to which Mr. Miller responded, the grant is going to pay for the plan. Mr. Cannon clarified, he is talking about concept, period. He said he is not asking for much, to which Mrs. Oland responded, the concept is, unfortunately, the three things they have already laid out. She reiterated, that is the concept. She explained, how it goes, and where it goes, and whether it is a 2-mile trail or a 10-mile trail, and that kind of stuff is going to come through the master plan. She said they currently have \$100,000 in their budget, but if they start spending those funds without the grant acceptance, they may not be eligible then to match the Federal money.

Mr. Dodd said what concerns him and many citizens is that a lot of these projects are brought to Council with a time limit, and they are put under pressure, so they hurry up and rush to accept it, and this happens often. Mr. Kilmer said he is in favor of bringing the grant forward, to which Mr. Dodd responded, he is not against it. Mr. Kilmer said, they are kind of nitpicking here, but that is their job. He clarified, this is a very positive thing they are moving forward on, but they are hearing from people that were kind of surprised by it, but he does think they should move forward, and he understands what Mrs. Oland said in terms of using the money in terms of the match. He said they will take further bites at this apple, and this is not the only thing they have to approve because they will have to approve more budget things down the road, to which Mrs. Oland responded, correct.

Mr. Joe Holloway said they keep hearing about the simplicity of it, and the low-impact of it, but it seems like it is not. Mr. Cannon said it started out as a reference of \$350,000, and the County portion of \$35,000 in their Land Preservation document, and his perception from reading that was that was the total cost. He asked where it is now, and is it at \$1.6 million, or is it \$820,000, to which Mr. Miller responded, it is \$1.6 million. He again explained, the Federal piece would be \$820,000, and the \$350,000 Mr. Cannon referenced is the POS portion of that, which would be used to match the \$820,000. Mr. Cannon said he thinks it is very unclear, and they are asking Council to commit to a huge amount of money up front, and they are not even sure how far this is going to go, or what the true costs are going to be to the citizens of Wicomico County, to which Mrs. Oland responded, the intention is that, with this plan, the \$100,000 the County committed through pay-go this year would be the only funds they would be asking for from pay-go. She said the \$254,000 currently sits in their fund balance, and is required to be used on property at Pirate's Wharf per POS guidelines, so they are just asking for those funds to be committed, and moved to this project so they can follow POS guidelines. She said their intention is the \$354,000, but the \$100,000 is the only commitment from the County general fund. She

repeated, the \$100,000 that has already been committed and was already put there in FY19 are the only funds that they anticipate needing because they believe, between POS and these waterway improvement grants, they can accomplish the remainder of the project match.

Mr. Joe Holloway said he hates to keep repeating about the simplicity of the project and the low-impact, but are they talking about nice bathrooms with heat and air conditioning, or are they talking porta potties, and are they talking about a paved parking lot, or a parking lot with stone, and are they talking about walking trails that are paved, or are they talking about walking trails where they would have to wear boots if it rains. He said these are some of the things they need answers to, to which Mrs. Oland responded, and that is what the planning process would allow them to do. Mr. Davis asked what they need to do the planning process, to which Mr. Miller responded, the planning process is a master planning process that is going to answer all of those questions as to what they can put, where they can put it, and it will include budget estimates, and probably some type of phasing so if they wanted to go beyond this, there would be things they could consider in the future. He said he thinks the goal is to accomplish the objectives they have laid out, which, again are public water access, some type of low-impact recreation, which they interpret as hiking and bird watching, and those types of activities, and trying to keep the place as natural as possible. He said he hears their questions, and he would like to know the answers to those things, but they do not know the answers to those yet, and that is why they are going to go through that process and come back to Council and present those ideas.

Mr. Dodd asked if a request for proposal on bidding or anything has been done to come up with the figures to meet this \$1.6 million, to which Mr. Miller responded, the work with DNR that administered this Federal grant. He said they initially applied for \$400,000 of Federal money, and there were actually three projects awarded. He explained, Wicomico County was one of those three, but one of those three ended up dropping off for some unknown reason, so they called him in a panic over the summer and said they have additional money, and asked if the County could match it. He said they kind of recalibrated a little bit with POS, and funding that is available without having to come back to the County to say they need more money, and the plan they presented to Council is a way that they are leveraging the \$100,000 that they got into \$1.6 million without having to ask the County for any additional money. He said that \$1.6 million, basically, is the number they felt they could match without having to come back to the County. Mr. Dodd asked if he knows if there are contractors who will meet these guidelines and estimates, to which Mr. Miller responded, no, because this project has not been bid out as there is nothing to bid at this point. He explained, they are concepts at this point, but they are hoping over the next six months they will have an environmental assessment done, and a master plan, hopefully, done, and, at that point, they would start looking at permitting and bidding, and all of those things. He said then they would have to prioritize if the project is more than \$1.6 million, and maybe phase it for future POS. Mr. Dodd asked if they are hoping the contracts will be within the range, to which Mr. Miller responded, he thinks, honestly, with what they have presented with \$1.6 million, they can accomplish at some level the things they want to.

Mr. Matt Holloway said he thinks, regardless of the details being worked out, he has not heard a single citizen against this project. He said he thinks residents would like to see an amenity down on that end of the County, and he thinks that is the main thing they should be focusing on, trying to get this ball rolling, and let the details get sorted out by the professionals. Mr. Cannon said that is a good point, and that was his first concern when they started with this. He said he is not familiar with a huge demand for this, but he understands it would be nice to have it, though he is not sure of a huge demand, and they always have to balance what the costs are with what the needs are. He said he has not heard a lot of people saying they really have to have a park at Pirate's Wharf, but that could be his problem, and maybe he is not getting out enough. Mr. Kilmer said he will make sure to give them his phone number because he

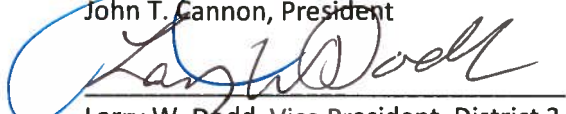
definitely has been hearing from people about it. Mr. Dodd said he just wants to make sure the County can afford it, to which Mr. Cannon added, and that the County is spending their money properly. Mrs. Oland said, again, what they attempted to do was to craft this in such a way that the \$100,000 that was already committed are the funds that are coming from the general fund, and, at this point in time, they would not be asking for any other general fund monies. Mr. Kilmer said, ultimately, the decision would be in Council's hands about that, to which Mrs. Oland responded, correct. She said, again, the next step they are asking for is a budget amendment in a Legislative Session for the \$254,000, and the authority to sign the grant. Mr. Davis asked if they are being committed to \$820,000, to which Mrs. Oland responded, correct. Mr. Davis said that is without having a plan, to which Mrs. Oland clarified, without the \$100,000, they are not going to have a plan.

Mr. Wayne Strausburg, Director of Administration, came to the podium, and said he will put this into perspective. He said, as Mr. Joe Holloway said, the County has had this property for 25 years. He said the shoreline is eroding every year, and they are losing the shoreline. He said they have an opportunity here to get \$1.5 million dollars in Federal and State funding to develop that park. He said they are asking Council whether they want to take advantage of that opportunity or not. He said, if they do, then they will take advantage of it, and, if Council does not want to, they will just move on. He said that is really where they are.


Mr. Cannon said Council will look to see what they bring back to them, and they will see when they can put it on the Agenda. There was no further discussion.



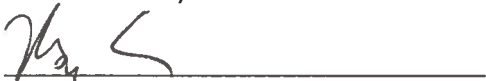
John T. Cannon, President



Larry W. Dodd, Vice President, District 3



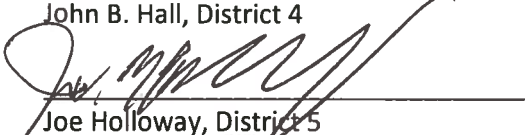
Ernest F. Davis, District 1



Marc Kilmer, District 2

absent

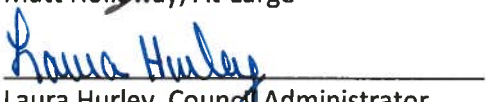
John B. Hall, District 4



Joe Holloway, District 5



Matt Holloway, At-Large



Laura Hurley, Council Administrator