



Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA
Clerk

TIMOTHY T. BURTIS
Chairman

TAMMY BARBER
Deputy Clerk

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COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES – NOVEMBER 18, 2025 DEBRA J. CODY, CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Knapp, Dr. Kelly, Mr. Brown, Ms. Hernandez

ALSO ATTENDING: Mr. Romeo; also see attached list

Chair Cody called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m. and the previous meeting’s minutes were approved.

1. PARKS & RECREATION: Brian Kelley, Commissioner

a. Resolution to Amend the 2025 County Budget to Accept a Grant From the NYS Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for Phase 2 of the Boardwalk Replacement Project at Beaver Lake Nature Center (\$1,250,000)

PURPOSE: To amend the 2025 County budget to accept a grant from the 2025 Municipal Parks and Recreation program from the New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

OBJECTIVE/ WORK PLAN: This grant will provide the necessary funding for the completion of Phase 2 of the boardwalk replacement project at the Beaver Lake Nature Center. Phase 2 will replace the remaining five hundred and twenty three feet of boardwalk. Phase 1 was completed in the spring of 2025. The Phase 1 portion replaced two-thousand fifty three feet of boardwalk.

FUNDING SOURCE: 2025 Municipal Parks and Recreation program from the New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Friends of Beaver Lake Nature Center have committed up to \$250,000 towards Phase 2 of the Beaver Lake Project.

BUDGET:

REVENUES

In Admin Unit 6900000000	\$1,250,000
Parks and Recreation Grants Project Index 510030	
In Grants Project 770084001 BLNC Boardwalk Replacement Ph 2 In Account 590027	
St Aid – Culture & Rec	\$1,000,000
In Account 590057	
Other Misc Revenues	\$ 250,000

APPROPRIATIONS

A960 Appropriations	\$1,250,000
In Admin Unit 6900000000	
Index 510030	
In Grants Project 770084001 BLNC Boardwalk Replacement Ph 2 In Account 694080	
Professional Services	

- Collaborated with the state and the Friends of Beaver Lake for this project
- When the trail is completed, this will be the nicest boardwalk in the county
- Had folks out to use electric wheel chairs; tested it on the boardwalk
 - The Friends might purchase one wheelchair to get started
- Making sure all can use it and it is accessible

- Phase 1 cost \$2.5M
- Phase 2 will cost \$1M

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- Is Phase 2 the final Phase? Is this over a new area or replacing existing boardwalk?
 - Yes, and it is replacing the existing boardwalk
- Any estimate of the useful life?
 - 20+ years; previous lasted ~40 years
- Please provide an update on Hopkins
 - Hoping to be finished in July/August
 - Folks that have the contract already have eyes for big things for September/October
 - If in the Baldwinsville area, stop to see the turf complex at the high school, same for Hopkins Road
 - Focus is on baseball, softball, camps for kids, rugby, flag football, lacrosse
 - Will see teams from out of town; 60-70 team tournaments
- What conversations have happened with the Champions Field?
 - Third party outfit that has contract for Hopkins Road, also has it for Carrier Park
 - If stays that way throughout the RFP process, will see big things happening
 - Hopkins has two more phases:
 - 2nd Phase will concentrate on parking lots, concession buildings, offices and storage
 - 3rd Phase is to build out the back and put in another super field
 - Hopkins combined with Carrier Park, will be in a position to attract big things
 - Quality of what the county is building is better than what is out there, as it is so new
 - Carrier Park has challenger fields there as well
 - With turf, they can create any dimension size field with portable bases, etc.
- Where does the traffic mitigation fall into the phases?
 - It will fall into the second phase when they put in the access road; will be put in for construction
 - DOT did study and roundabout with turning lane is ok for there
- Is the \$1M for the second phase including local dollars on top of this grant?
 - Accept grant and fundraise
 - Before money is received, the project will start, then will figure out how it works
 - Will receive \$250,000 from the Friends
 - Should be covered for inflation, escalators and other stuff if money left over

A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Ms. Hernandez, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

- Please provide a Lights on the Lake Update
 - 259 cars for Lights on the Lake on the 1st night
 - Wednesday is Salute Our Troops Night - Feed Our Vets will be out collecting cans for the Veterans
 - Weekend of November 22nd there is a walk and a run early in the morning
 - Monday of the last week of the program will have 4 charities - will be able to pick which charity to put money to
 - Big program with 40,000 cars going through
 - Had almost 60,000 cars during COVID, then it dropped to 40-45,000 cars
- When do the sleigh rides start at Highland Forest?
 - 2nd week of December; the wagon will go out even if there is no snow

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



DEBBIE KAMINSKI, Assistant Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE

DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 2025

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Sandy Miller-Martin	FINOPS
Chad Ryan	Citizen
Darcie Lesniak	LEG
JIM Beebe	LEG
ETHAN LaMontagne	LEG
Mark Nicotra	PARKS
John DeSantis	LEG
Nicole Watts	LEG
Ryan Ockenden	LAW
Brian Kelley	PARKS