

RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
3278 WHITEHAVEN ROAD  
GRAND ISLAND, NY 14072  
(716) 773-9680 – Office  
(716) 465-8370 - Cell  
recreation@grand-island.ny.us



THE TOWN OF GRAND ISLAND  
Parks and Recreation  
Advisory Board

August 22, 2016

Nathan McMurray, Town Supervisor;  
Members of the Town Board  
2255 Baseline Road  
Grand Island, New York 14072

To Whom It May Concern:

At the regularly scheduled meeting this evening of the Town of Grand Island Parks Recreation Advisory Board the matter of the West River Greenway Connector Trail was discussed. During the past few weeks the member majority of the Grand Island Town Board had taken it upon themselves to oppose the planned repurposing of the West River Parkway as a multi-purpose bicycle-pedestrian trail. Following that vote the board went on record officially supporting what is known as Alternative No. 4 which amounts to building a “sidewalk” along the length of the West River Service Road. *Both decisions were made in complete absence of any consultation with the members of the Grand Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.*

As is past practice, the members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board should have been consulted before making decisions of this magnitude. The lack of coordination makes it apparent that the views of the volunteers who serve on this board were not worthy of consideration. Accordingly, the members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board have taken it upon themselves to render judgment on this worthy recreational project. It is our finding that the proposed preferred alternative to repurpose the West River Parkway as a multi-purpose trail as advanced by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation will greatly benefit the Town of Grand Island and we fully endorse its implementation. We also reject Alternative No. 4 which essentially adds a “sidewalk” along the West River Service Road since it adds little recreational value and denies the public any opportunity to view the scenic qualities of the Niagara River.

It is worth noting that our decision to support the parkway trail is fully consistent with the goals and objectives set forth in the Town of Grand Island Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

Sincerely,

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Jason Masker, Chairman

Town Board Liaison – Chris Aronica

Recreation Supervisor – Joseph Menter

Chairman – Jason Masker

Members: Angelo Grande, Ray Gress, Neil Hoffman, Alice Kozen, Paul Leuchner, James Szakaacs