

**Glensheen Wayside Design Project**  
**Kick-Off Meeting Summary**  
**November 9, 2017**

**Attendees**

- |                             |                                              |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1. CJ Fernandez, AFLA       | 6. Jenn Moses, City of Duluth                |
| 2. Justin Otsea, ARDC       | 7. Doug Kerfeld, MnDOT                       |
| 3. James Gittemeier, MIC    | 8. Scott Nelson, Tisher Creek Property Owner |
| 4. Dan Hartman, Glensheen   | 9. Ken Buchler, North Shore Scenic RA,       |
| 5. Jane Pederson, Glensheen | Regional Rail Authority                      |

**Meeting Summary**

The Glensheen Wayside Design Kickoff meeting began at 2:00 p.m., November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Glensheen Winter Garden Room. Justin Otsea, Planner and Project Manager, of ARDC started the meeting by giving a brief overview the project and allowing everyone in attendance to give an introduction of themselves. He followed by briefly describing the planning project scope, supporting funding, and goals of the process. After Justin's overview, Dan Hartman discussed some relative history of the Glensheen family and the project site.

Main components for the wayside design to include are:

- Increase attraction from tourists and locals on the North Shore Scenic Drive
- Increase accessibility and safety for crossing London Rd. and railroad from Lakewalk
- Enhance Glensheen's outdoor historical attractions
- Utilizing and preserving natural features of the area

**The Process**

It was established that throughout the process, Justin would be the point of contact for information and notification distribution. Justin outlined the project process which includes three meetings with CJ Fernandez (Aune-Fernandez Landscape Architects), providing context, a summary of the process is listed below:

**Meeting #1 (Today) Preliminary kickoff/data acquisition Meeting-** Discuss the background, area relationships, experiences, needs and opportunities related to the wayside site. Visit wayside to discuss potential options as well as get a stronger association with the site's opportunities and needs. Create a core 'steering committee' to evaluate recommendations.

**Meeting #2 (January) -Design Options Review Meeting-** Review drafted design options for the site after analyzing data acquired from meeting one and other research. The primary goal of meeting #2 will be to review the potential design options, establish priorities of improvement options, and also evaluate the feasibility of each recommendation.

*Examples of some desired improvements could include:*

- Improving Interpretative Opportunities
- Accessibility Improvements
- Parking Capacity Increases, among others

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**Meeting #3 (February) Final Approval / Public Open House Meeting**-Present final recommendations and design improvements to both the committee and public in an open house style presentation meeting. Discussion was held on additional stakeholders to invite to the planning process and the final public meeting, more details on event promotion and invitees will be discussed at meeting #2.

At the completion of the project C.J. Fernandez will supply both digital and hard copy of final designs and recommendations in a report, which will also include meeting summaries, cost estimates, identify potential funding avenues and grant opportunities available to complete the improvements to the wayside.

**Project Programming**

CJ provided a brief bit of background that he had gathered about the site, and then led a focused discussion to gather additional information to be incorporated into the design. To acquire more information about the project, members in attendance addressed their concerns, ideas and improvements for the wayside project. Some topics include restoring historical features, improving access from Glensheen mansion to the wayside, safety concerns, and creating opportunities for new attractions. A summarized list of this conversation has been provided below:

*Site History/Existing Conditions*

- Brick tunnel along Tischer Creek does have some pedestrian space, but not much.
- Traffic in front of Glensheen is dangerous and continuous.
- Problems exiting and entering the Glensheen property.
- Trail along creek and area across have not been maintained.
- The bridge at Glensheen is no longer connected to the Congdon Trail.
- Previously existing orchards on the site no longer exist, some remaining trees in area.
- Front gate has restricted access, although designed as primary entrance for guests.
- Parking and tourism can be congested during special events such as Christmas at Glensheen, Concerts on the Pier, Winter Villiage, etc.
- Used by many tourists and locals, attendance at Glensheen has dramatically increased in recent years.
- Could mark the beginning of the North Shore Scenic Drive Byway Route

*Observed Needs/Issues*

- The entrance in front of Glensheen needs road control. A traffic light or similar road solution would be very beneficial. (of note, MnDOT is conducting traffic study soon, it was noted that the dates they had targeted were considered some of the slowest for Glensheen.)
- The trail along Tischer Creek across from Glensheen need restoration and maintenance.
- More parking is needed, especially during special events held by Glensheen and Duluth.
- Increase the safety of passage through the brick tunnel under Tischer Creek or other infrastructure improvement regarding safe pedestrian crossing of London Road.

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*Potential Project Programming*

- Develop wayside rest area across from Glensheen's front entrance.
- Add more parking on East side.
- Connect the bridge at Glensheen to the Congdon trail.
- Connect trail at Glensheen to the UMD Connector trail
- Connect Lakewalk to 1<sup>st</sup> St. and Glensheen Wayside property
- Build a Depot for the North Shore Scenic Railroad on the potential wayside property.
- Develop a dock for Vista Queen to dock near shore for Concerts on the Pier
- Preserve white pine forest on wayside property
- Research history of Congdon property to bring back historical features and uses.
- Revive orchard and past gardens.

**Next Step:**

Mr. Fernandez will continue to acquire/analyze data, as well as draft design and improvement recommendation options in various scales. A January meeting was tentatively agreed upon for meeting #2 to review the draft recommendations, with continued communication to establish a date that would work for steering committee members.

***Meeting Notes Compiled by:***

Justin Otsea and Aaron Axford, Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC)

***For Project Questions or Comments:***

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