

Downtown master plan receives \$1.5 million

By Tyler Young

With money freed up in the state bond pool, Damron was able to insert another \$1.5 million for the first phase of the Main Street renovation. That project will include drainage, sidewalk improvement and moving utilities off of Main Street over the next year and a half.

Nicholasville Now presented the final plans for the downtown renovation at its meeting March 5, and it broke down the costs for each phase of the renaissance. The first phase, which will be Main Street, will cost \$1.1 million. Phase two, which is Oak and Maple streets, will cost \$1.2 million. Phase three, which is York and Walnut streets, will cost \$1.5 million; and phase four, First, Second and Chestnut streets, will cost \$1.9 million.

The plan also includes three downtown city parks. Music Park, with a stage for live music, will be completed in phase one and cost \$750,000. Vineyard Square Park, which will be used for the Wine & Vine Festival, will cost \$1 million and be built in phase two. Palisades Park, which plays off of the limestone facades at the Kentucky River, will be build in phase three and cost \$1.5 million. None of those costs include land acquisition.

That brings the total cost of the downtown master plan to approximately \$9 million. According to Nicholasville Now Director Tonya Coleman, the renovation project will get started later this year and has a tentative ending date of sometime in 2016.

"It depends on your funding," she said. "We received \$1.5 million which is going to be wonderful to jump start the project. We're going to be able to start before we ever imagined."

At last week's Nicholasville City Commission meeting, Scott Southhall, with CDP Engineering, told the commission that under the guidelines of the funding work had to begin no later than June 30 on the first phase of the project.

He added that the work, which will include the areas between Oak and Chestnut streets and will focus on items such as sidewalks and relocating the utility lines either behind businesses or underground, will be completed in about a year. He also added that the work will be performed block-by-block.

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