

From: Ginny Sivak
Subject: Re: Meeting Request
Date: February 22, 2024 at 9:21 PM
To: Pollman, Howard
Bcc: [REDACTED]



Mr. Pollman,

Thank you for your email, but I think there has been some sort of miscommunication and we'd like to clear that up immediately.

Our request is for a public forum with PHMC leadership in which the public may attend and engage. Everyone deserves that, not just a small handful of us.

Three of us did meet recently with Commissioner Cal Pifer. He was gracious enough to respond to an inquiry from a volunteer. That volunteer shared the offer in a fairly broad manner and a handful of us accepted the invitation. We felt that we had a good conversation with the commissioner; our questions were respectfully heard, and information was respectfully offered. However, our request was that Cal Pifer convey to PHMC that we were and still are seeking a public forum. We do not consider a private meeting an adequate alternative to a public forum and we stand firm in our belief that the whole public deserves answers, not just a small group of concerned volunteers and citizens.

If PHMC leadership is interested in meeting with a small number of volunteers to discuss operations and plans for Niagara, we would entertain that possibility only under the conditions that we are allowed to record, post, share, and generally distribute the contents of that meeting to a broad public audience. Prior to that meeting we would make efforts to survey what questions the public most cares about to ensure we are representing their concerns and not just our own. We still maintain that there is no replacement for a public forum where everyone has the right to ask their questions and to be heard. Everyone who signed that petition wants a public meeting, and they deserve one. Our goal is still to have a public meeting between the citizens of Erie County and PHMC leadership regarding the future of our collective asset, namely the US Brig Niagara.

Again, to be perfectly clear, we are seeking accountability and transparency regarding the US Brig Niagara through a public forum with PHMC leadership. The public deserves access to that information, not just a select number of us.

Ginny Sivak
Katie Zawrotniak
Steven Perry