

Streetscape project under consideration

BY JILL HELTON

OF THE TRIBUNE & GEORGIAN STAFF

A group of St. Marys citizens is hoping to bring more of the city's new waterfront park to the adjoining streets.

The committee that guided the concept and development of Howard Gilman Memorial Park is seeking support for what it calls "the next step" in downtown enhancement.

St. Marys City Council granted that show of support, but the decision ultimately will rest with a different group of people. A new mayor and four new council members will be sworn in next month.

Jim Gant, a member of the Historic Downtown Enhancement Committee, explained the committee's goal to "improve the pedestrian experience mitigate the visual and physical impacts associated with vehicles and reinforce the character of the historic downtown."

The committee wants to begin work on St. Marys Street and later expand to include portions of Osborne Street, Gant said.

The Genesis Group, the firm that designed the waterfront park, gave a presentation last fall on how the city could continue its efforts to beautify the waterfront. On Nov. 28, the firm furnished the city with a proposal of \$20,900 for the design and construction costs.

"The committee ... recognizes that this recommended cost is not presently budgeted and must be considered, budgeted and funded by the new council next year," said Gant.

Several council members

voiced their support for the project.

"I totally endorse it," said Council Member Joe Crawford. "I'd like to see that [downtown] facelift to continue."

The council also commended the committee, particularly Gant, for their dedication to the project.