

**Minutes of the Meeting
of the
Downtown Committee
of
Buffalo Urban Development Corporation**

**Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning
901 City Hall
Buffalo, New York
February 9, 2016
12:00 p.m.**

Committee Members Present:

James W. Comerford
Dottie Gallagher-Cohen
Brendan R. Mehaffy (Committee Chair)
Benjamin N. Obletz
Steven J. Stepniak
Rev. Darius G. Pridgen

Committee Members Absent:

Thomas J. Dearing

Officers Present:

Peter M. Cammarata, President
David A. Stebbins, Executive Vice President
Brandye Merriweather, Vice President
Andrew Schoeppich, Treasurer
Kevin J. Zanner, Secretary
Mollie Profic, Assistant Treasurer

Guests Present: Debra Chernoff, Buffalo Place, Inc.; Rebecca Gandour, City of Buffalo Office of Strategic Planning; Lisa Hicks, BUDC Intern; and Michael Schmand, Buffalo Place, Inc.

Roll Call: The Secretary called the roll at 12:10 p.m. and a quorum of the Committee was determined to be present. Rev. Pridgen and Mr. Stepniak joined the meeting during the presentation of item 3.0.

- 1.0 Approval of Minutes of the January 12, 2016 Meeting** –The minutes of the January 12, 2016 meeting of the Downtown Committee were presented. Ms. Gallagher-Cohen made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Comerford and unanimously carried.
- 2.0 BBRP Loan Program – Program Updates** – Ms. Merriweather updated the Committee regarding BBRP Loan Program matters. Each of the five participating lenders in the loan program has submitted the name of a representative to serve on the new BUDC Loan Committee. Candidates for the three remaining seats on the committee are being identified. It is anticipated that a complete slate of committee members will be presented for approval at the March meeting of the BUDC Board of Directors.
- 3.0 Downtown Infrastructure – Project Updates** – Ms. Merriweather updated the Committee regarding downtown infrastructure project matters. As reported at the last Committee meeting, CFA funding has been approved for the Shelton Square/Fireman's Park and Franklin Street infrastructure

improvement projects. Work continues on both projects, which will include outreach efforts to area stakeholders to provide input on the specific infrastructure improvements for the projects.

- 4.0 Queen City Pop Up** – Ms. Merriweather reported that work has commenced on identifying the next location for the Queen City Pop-up Program. A number of vendors have already contacted BUDC to express interest in participating in the next session of the program. Ms. Merriweather noted three of the four that participated in the December holiday session are women-owned business enterprises, and that all three have opened permanent downtown locations.
- 5.0 Downtown Development Guide** – Ms. Merriweather reported that the Downtown Development Guide continues to generate inquiries and leads for new development opportunities. Over fifty developers have contacted BUDC since the release of the guide. Ms. Merriweather indicated that additional outreach efforts will be coordinated with the Buffalo Niagara Enterprise.
- 6.0 Buffalo Place Updates** – Mr. Schmand reported that a Buffalo Place advisory committee will review applications for funding through the 2016 Main Street grant program. A total of \$300,000 was awarded to Buffalo Place for the 2016 program. He noted that Buffalo Place has increased staffing in its planning department and currently has one unfilled position in its rangers program. He also commented on the positive impact of the more robust rangers program.
- 7.0 Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus Updates** – There was no update on this item.
- 8.0 Buffalo Green Code & Brownfield Opportunity Areas** – Rev. Pridgen commented on the Common Council's review of the Buffalo Green Code. Rev. Pridgen praised the City staff for its work at the Council-level meetings and noted that public input has focused primarily on residential impacts, including height, density and setback requirements.
- 9.0 Adjournment** – There being no further business to come before the Downtown Committee, upon motion made by Rev. Pridgen, seconded by Mr. Stepniak and unanimously carried, the Downtown Committee meeting of February 9, 2016 was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin J. Zannef, Secretary