

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

**95 Perry Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14203
June 17, 2026
12:00 p.m.**

Committee Members Present:

Thomas Baines (Chair)
Daniel Castle
Jenna Kavanaugh
Grant Loomis
Kimberley A. Minkel
Louis Petrucci
Nolan Skipper
Karen Utz

Committee Members Absent:

Darby Fishkin

Officers Present:

Brandye Merriweather, President
Rebecca Gandour, Executive Vice President
Mollie Profic, Treasurer
Kevin J. Zanner, Secretary
Atiqa Abidi, Assistant Treasurer

Guests Present: Peter Burakowski, Buffalo Place; Alexis M. Florczak, Hurwitz Fine P.C.; Dan Knight, Gilbane Building Company; Brian Krygier, Director of IT, ECIDA;

Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m. by Mr. Baines. After calling the roll of the Committee, a quorum was determined to be present by Mr. Baines.

- 1.0 Approval of Minutes of the May 20, 2026 Meeting** – The minutes of the May 20, 2026 meeting of the Downtown Committee were presented. Ms. Loomis made a motion to approve the May 20, 2026 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Petrucci and unanimously carried (8-0-0).
- 2.0 Downtown Advocacy Strategy – Consultant Selection** – Ms. Merriweather presented her June 17, 2026 memorandum regarding the consultant selection in furtherance of downtown advocacy strategy efforts. She noted that merging the MIG and Wendel teams for this work will allow Wendel to complete local stakeholder coordination and MIG to focus on an implementation strategy and funding request to Albany. Mr. Baines added that the administration has reviewed the existing plans for downtown Buffalo and seeks to bring prior work together moving forward. Mr. Skipper then made a motion to recommend that the BUDC Board of Directors: (i) authorize BUDC to enter into an agreement with MIG for an amount not to exceed \$65,000; and (iii) authorize the President or Executive Vice President to execute the agreement with MIG and take such actions and take such other actions as may be necessary or

appropriate to implement this authorization. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kavanaugh and unanimously carried (8-0-0).

- 3.0 Ralph Wilson Park – General Update** – Mr. Knight provided an update regarding the Ralph Wilson Park construction project. With respect to Phases 1A and 1B, substantial completion has been achieved for portions of the South Lawn and soccer fields. With respect to Phase 2B, work on the play garden continues, with mock-up renderings of the freighter developed and the foundation footings in place, which has allowed the buildout work to commence. Shoreline work is anticipated to commence in July.
- 4.0 Buffalo's Race for Place – General Update** – Ms. Merriweather presented the following updates regarding Buffalo's Race for Place.
- a. Downtown Project & Cost Management Update: Ms. Merriweather reported that BCC has begun design related work on the Erie Street Greenway project. Bi-weekly meetings continue to take place with BUDC, BCC, the Office of Strategic Planning and Department of Public Works to review and advance projects and identify additional funding opportunities. A dashboard will be created for these projects, which will display information relating to project progress.
 - b. Downtown Temporary Intersection Project Update: Project installation has been completed at two of the three sites. Ms. Merriweather shared photos from the installations near the Explore & More Children's Museum and Michigan Street. Installation at the Roosevelt Plaza site will take place at the end of the month. Ms. Merriweather thanked Mr. Bernard for his work and effort in furtherance of this project.
- 5.0 Queen City Hub Revisited – Project Update** – Ms. Merriweather presented an update regarding Queen City Hub Revisited. Work on this initiative continues. A coordination meeting will take place regarding the advocacy strategy for this initiative. Mr. Baines added that the team is working to realign efforts with work that has been completed to date.
- 6.0 Partner Updates** – Mr. Burakowski reported that the Thursday at Main and Downtown Country Farmer's Market are each into their third week of the summer season. Pickleball courts will be installed at the Fountain Plaza ice rinks in July. Buffalo Place is coordinating with businesses as the Cars Sharing Main Street construction continues.
- 7.0 Adjournment** – There being no further business to come before the Downtown Committee, upon motion made by Mr. Petrucci, seconded by Mr. Loomis and unanimously carried (8-0-0), the May 20, 2026 meeting of the Downtown Committee was adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin J. Zanner, Secretary