

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

Via Video Conference Call & Live Stream Audio

**August 17, 2022
12:00 p.m.**

Committee Members Present:

Trina Burruss
Daniel Castle
Darby Fishkin
Dottie Gallagher
Brendan R. Mehaffy (Committee Chair)
Kimberley Minkel

Committee Members Absent:

Michael Finn
Darius G. Pridgen

Officers Present:

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

Guests Present: Thomas E. Baines, Deputy Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development, Erie County; Cristina Cordero, Gardiner & Theobald; Alexis Florczak, Hurwitz Fine P.C.; Soma Hawramee, ECIDA Compliance Officer; Lisa Hicks, Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning; Antonio Parker, BUDC Project Manager; and Seth Piccirillo, Buffalo Niagara Partnership.

Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 12:08 p.m. A quorum of the Committee was present. Ms. Minkel served as Chair of the meeting until Mr. Mehaffy joined the meeting during the presentation of item 2.0.

The meeting was held via Zoom in accordance with the provisions of Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, as amended effective January 14, 2022, which authorizes public bodies to conduct meetings and take such action authorized by law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and to authorize such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed.

1.0 Approval of Minutes of the May 18, 2022 Meeting – The minutes of the May 18, 2022 meeting of the Downtown Committee were presented. Ms. Gallagher made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Castle and unanimously carried (5-0-0).

2.0 Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park – Project Update Presentation by Gardiner & Theobald – Ms. Merriweather introduced Christina Cordero from Gardiner & Theobald to present the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation Centennial Park project update. Ms. Cordero provided an overview of the project milestones to date, noting that the last remaining design milestone, 100% Construction

Documents Phase, is anticipated to be complete by late August. The joint application for shoreline permitting is progressing, with October 2022 as the target for obtaining the permit. G&T has been working with construction manager Gilbane to develop the construction project schedule. Ms. Cordero provided an overview of preliminary milestones to be completed. In response to a question from Ms. Minkel, Ms. Cordero indicated that the preliminary milestones account for potential supply chain issues.

- 3.0 Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park – MVVA Master Service Agreement Amendment: Pre-Construction Services** – Mr. Parker presented his August 17, 2022 memorandum regarding a proposed amendment to the MVVA Master Service Agreement. The proposed amendment would authorize additional work to assist Gilbane with bid negotiations and pre-construction services. Following the presentation, Ms. Minkel made a motion to recommend that the Board of Directors: (i) approve an amendment to the MVVA Master Service Agreement in the amount of \$412,401 for pre-construction services at Ralph C. Wilson Centennial Park; and (ii) authorize the President or Executive Vice President to execute the amendment to the MVVA Master Service Agreement and take such other actions as are necessary to implement this authorization. The motion was seconded by Ms. Burruss and unanimously carried (6-0-0).
- 4.0 Buffalo’s Race for Place – General Update** – Ms. Merriweather presented an update regarding Buffalo’s Race for Place. A request for proposals (RFP) in connection with the Inner Harbor and Waterfront Public Realm master plan was released yesterday. Proposals are being sought for planning and design work to explore potential streetscape and public realm improvements that could potentially include public spaces, multi-modal transportation and connecting present and future developments along Buffalo’s waterfront. BUDC is working with New York State on M/WBE outreach for participation in the RFP. Responses are due September 9th. Ms. Merriweather reported that BUDC continues work with the Project for Public Spaces and GoBike Buffalo on the placemaking grant received for the Ellicott Node. The scope and budget are being finalized for the project. The Common Council also recently approved BUDC’s ARPA funding request for \$1.2 million, a portion of the funding which will be utilized for the Queen City Pop-Up program. Mr. Mehaffy reported on a request to the Common Council to approve a contract with Stantec for work that will build off the Future of Mobility report and examine innovation and smart corridors in the City of Buffalo.
- 5.0 Partner Updates** – Mr. Castle reported that Erie County expects to announce next week the names of businesses selected for storefront grant awards. Erie County set aside \$10 million from increased sales tax revenue to provide grants to small businesses for storefront renovations. It is anticipated that there will be 260 storefront grant recipients, with 150-180 to be awarded to businesses in the City of Buffalo. The facade work on the Convention Center is progressing, and substantial completion should be achieved in late October/early November.
- 6.0 Adjournment** – There being no further business to come before the Downtown Committee, upon motion made by Ms. Minkel and seconded by Mr. Castle, the August 17, 2022 meeting of the Downtown Committee was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin J. Zanner
Secretary