

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

**95 Perry Street
Buffalo, New York 14203
April 15, 2020
8:30 a.m.**

Committee Members Present:

Trina Burruss
Michael Finn
Darby Fishkin
Dottie Gallagher
Thomas R. Hersey, Jr.
Brendan R. Mehaffy (Committee Chair)
Kimberley Minkel

Committee Members Absent:

James W. Comerford
Darius G. Pridgen

Officers Present:

Peter M. Cammarata, President
Brandye Merriweather, Vice President
Mollie Profic, Treasurer
Kevin J. Zanner, Secretary
Atiqa Abidi, Assistant Treasurer

Guests Present: Rebecca Gandour, Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning; and Jamie Hamann-Burney, Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.

Roll Call; Meeting Procedures: The roll of Committee members was called at 8:32 a.m. A quorum of the Committee was present. The meeting was held via video/telephone conference in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 202.1, issued by Governor Andrew Cuomo on March 12, 2020. The meeting was also live-streamed to the general public and recorded. A transcript of the meeting will be made available at a later date.

- 1.0 Approval of Minutes of the January 15, 2020 Meeting** – The minutes of the January 15, 2020 meeting of the Downtown Committee were presented. Mr. Hersey made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fishkin and unanimously carried (7-0-0).
- 2.0 Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park – Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation Grant Agreement #3** – Ms. Merriweather presented her April 15, 2020 memorandum regarding a proposed grant from the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation. She explained that the Foundation recently approved BUDC's application for 5.97 million dollars in grant funding that will be used for costs associated with the design and construction of the pedestrian bridge for the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Centennial Park project. Mr. Finn expressed appreciation for the Foundation's continued generosity and cooperation regarding the project. He then made a motion to recommend that the Board of Directors accept the grant funding in accordance with the April 15, 2020 memorandum. The motion was seconded by Ms. Burruss and unanimously carried (7-0-0).

- 3.0 Buffalo’s Race for Place – General Update** – Ms. Merriweather presented an update on the Race for Place initiative. The Race for Place initiative continues to move forward, but the COVID-19 health crisis has impacted efforts. She noted that COVID-19 has caused M&T to incorporate COVID-19 elements into the design elements of the M&T tech hub project. Virtual focus group sessions will be utilized to advance talent attraction and smart cities technology discussions. There was general discussion among the Committee members about the impact of COVID-19 and social distancing with respect to how workplaces will be reconfigured and future workspaces are designed and utilized.
- 4.0 Downtown Infrastructure – General Update** – Ms. Merriweather presented an update regarding downtown infrastructure. BUDC continues to work with the Office of Strategic Planning and the City of Buffalo DPW on several infrastructure projects. Maintenance and long-term sustainability remain important points of emphasis. Mr. Finn indicated that the City will be seeking feedback from the development community on priorities for infrastructure spending, with funding for these projects anticipated as part of a federal stimulus program.
- 5.0 BBRP Loan Program – General Update and Discussion** – Ms. Merriweather circulated and reviewed with the Committee the April 15, 2020 BBRP Loan Status Report. All loans are current. Ms. Merriweather reported that the Loan Committee met on March 26th and authorized short-term extensions of the Alexandre Apartments and Phoenix Brewery loans. She also indicated that discussions continue regarding the re-purposing of the BBRP loan program.
- 6.0 Waterfront Development – General Update** – Ms. Merriweather informed the Committee that the next quarterly meeting of waterfront development stakeholders is tentatively scheduled for July 9th.
- 7.0 Queen City Pop Up** – Ms. Merriweather reported that BUDC is working with its partners at the Beverly Gray Center and the SBA to host virtual sessions to provide resources and technical assistance to small businesses.
- 8.0 Partner Updates** – Mr. Hamann-Burney presented a brief update regarding the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus. His report focused on BNMC’s response to the COVID-19 health crisis. BNMC has pivoted its activities to providing support for the health care institutions located on the medical campus.
- 9.0 Adjournment** – There being no further business to come before the Downtown Committee, upon motion made by Ms. Gallagher, seconded by Mr. Finn and unanimously carried, the April 15, 2020 meeting of the Downtown Committee was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin J. Zanner
Secretary