

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

Via Video Conference Call & Live Stream Audio

**December 16, 2020
9:00 a.m.**

Committee Members Present:

James W. Comerford
Michael Finn
Darby Fishkin
Thomas R. Hersey, Jr.
Brendan R. Mehaffy (Committee Chair)
Kimberley Minkel

Committee Members Absent:

Trina Burruss
Dottie Gallagher
Darius G. Pridgen

Officers Present:

Peter M. Cammarata, President
Brandye Merriweather, Vice President, Downtown Development
Rebecca Gandour, Vice President, Finance & Development
Mollie Profic, Treasurer
Kevin J. Zanner, Secretary

Guests Present: Debra Chernoff, Buffalo Place, Inc.; David Dixon, Stantec; Arthur Hall, BUDC; Jamie Hamann-Burney, Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus; Gregory Rodriguez, Stantec; and Michael Schmand, Buffalo Place, Inc.

Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. The Secretary called the roll and a quorum of the Committee was determined to be present.

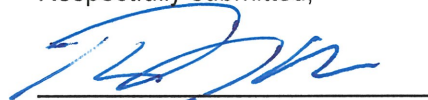
The meeting was held via video/telephone conference in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 202.15 issued by Governor Andrew Cuomo on March 12, 2020, as amended. The meeting was also live-streamed to the general public and recorded. A transcript of the meeting will be made available at a later date.

- 1.0 Approval of Minutes of the November 18, 2020 Meeting** – The minutes of the November 18, 2020 meeting of the Downtown Committee were presented. Mr. Comerford made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fishkin and unanimously carried (6-0-0).
- 2.0 Presentation from Stantec – The Future of Mobility: Remaking Buffalo for the 21st Century** – Ms. Merriweather introduced Stantec representatives David Dixon and Gregory Rodriguez, who delivered an oral presentation of the Stantec report “The Future of Mobility: Remaking Buffalo for the 21st Century.” This report was generated in connection with the charette sessions of the Congress for New Urbanism (CNU) that were held at One Seneca Tower in February of 2020. Mr. Dixon noted that Mayor Brown had asked Stantec to address the future of mobility in Buffalo as a means to enhance

opportunity, equity and inclusion for all Buffalonians. He noted that over the next two decades, it is estimated that 80% of net new households will consist of single persons and couples. This will favorably impact urban real estate markets, which are generally more attractive to smaller households. Transportation mobility innovation presents an opportunity for the City of Buffalo to attract talent for the region's employers and to redefine how its streets and infrastructure are utilized. Mr. Dixon then reviewed the recommendations in the report, including the mobility and innovation zone concept, which will help create an inclusive neighborhood and place of opportunity on lower Main Street. An important element to successfully implementing this concept is leadership and collaboration among the public and private sectors. A question/answer session followed the presentation, with several Committee members commenting favorably upon the presentation. Ms. Merriweather noted that Mayor Brown is creating a task force for this effort, as was recommended in the report.

- 3.0 Buffalo's Race for Place – General Update** – Ms. Merriweather presented a brief update on the Race for Place initiative. On December 11th, Mayor Brown announced the issuance of two requests for proposals: one seeking proposals for the redevelopment of the Mohawk parking ramp at 477 Washington Street and a second RFP for a mobility coordinator to manage City of Buffalo parking ramps. Ms. Merriweather noted that the RFPs were released to jumpstart the recommendations outlined in the Future of Mobility report as well as Race for Place efforts to enhance accessibility, equity and vibrancy in downtown.
- 4.0 Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park – General Update** – Ms. Merriweather reported that the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park project has accomplished an important milestone—100% design development has been completed. BUDC staff continues to participate in project meetings and is pursuing additional funding for the project.
- 5.0 Queen City Pop Up – Small Business Recovery Efforts** – Ms. Merriweather reported that the 2020 Shop Small All Season Downtown Dollars Giveaway program continues through December 24th. She also reported on the Buy Black Buffalo Week initiative sponsored by the City of Buffalo and AT&T which ran from December 4th through December 11th. The goal of the initiative, which was coordinated by the Beverly Gray Business Exchange Center, was to encourage holiday shoppers to support Black-owned businesses during the holiday season.
- 6.0 Partner Updates** – Mr. Hamann-Burney presented an update regarding the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus. He commented on the synergy between the concepts outlined in the Stantec mobility study and ongoing efforts of the BNMC transportation management team with respect to campus-wide transportation and mobility issues. Ms. Chernoff presented an update regarding Buffalo Place. A press conference has been scheduled for December 28th regarding the virtual ball-drop event for New Year's Eve. Skating at Rotary Rink remains on pause for now.
- 7.0 Adjournment** – There being no further business to come before the Downtown Committee, upon motion made by Mr. Comerford, seconded by Ms. Minkel and unanimously carried, the December 16, 2020 meeting of the Downtown Committee was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kevin J. Zahner
Secretary