

BUFFALO URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY
April 24, 2008
ROOM 209

MEMBERS AND

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Mayor Byron Brown, Chairman
Council Member Kearns
Ms. Oehler
Commissioner Tobe
Alisa Lukasiewicz, Corporation Counsel
Council Member LoCurto

EXCUSED:

Council President Franczyk

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Janet Penksa

SECRETARY:

Scott C. Billman

OTHERS PRESENT:

Greg Bernas, OSP
Sandra Miller, OSP
Carla Kosmerl, OSP
Christopher Valts, ACS
Ed Porter, BURA
Dale Zuchlewski, OSP
Jim Folan, Contract Adm
Jackie Rushton, Council Staff
Darryl McPherson, Audit
Stephanie Siman, Heart of the City

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 9:40 A.M. Commissioner Tobe made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the **March 27, 2007**, and that they are accepted; seconded by Corporation Counsel Lukasiewicz and carried unanimously.

3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Agenda Item 3a – Lafayette Ice Rink Flooring

Submitted to Agency Members for approval, is a request to enter into a contract with low bidders, SportsBuilders, Inc. for \$70,016.85 for the installation of new rubber flooring in the Lafayette Ice Rink. Council Member LoCurto has identified CDBG Funds to complete this work. This project was advertised in the Buffalo News on March 5, 2008 and bids were accepted and opened on March 19, 2008.

Council Member LoCurto stated the rink is nearly twenty (20) years old and there has not been many capital improvements, and the flooring is a safety issue as well.

Council Member LoCurto made the motion to approve the above item, contingent on certification of funds by the Financial Control of Agencies and Agency Counsel approval of all Agreements; seconded by Council Member Kearns and carried unanimously.

4. OAK STREET REDEVELOPMENT/URBAN RENEWAL PLAN

No Submission

5. WATERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT

No Submission

6. NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

No Submission

7. URBAN HOMESTEAD PROGRAM

No Submission

8. SOUTH ELLICOTT URBAN RENEWAL AREA

No Submission

9. HOME

No Submission

10. HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA)

Agenda Item 10a – Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Contracts

Submitted to Agency Members for approval, is a request to contract with various agencies for the 2008 HOPWA Program totaling \$507,000. Each year the City of Buffalo receives an allocation of funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development specifically for the HOPWA program which is allocated to agencies that provide housing assistance and supportive services to this community.

Ms. Oehler made the motion to approve the above item, contingent on certification of funds by the Financial Control of Agencies and Agency Counsel approval of all Agreements; seconded by Corporation Counsel Lukasiwicz and carried unanimously.

11. EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT

Agenda Item 11a – Emergency Shelter Grant Contracts

Submitted to Agency Members for approval, is a request to contract with various agencies for the 2008 Emergency Shelter Grant totaling \$711,365. Each year the City of Buffalo receives an allocation of funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development specifically for the Emergency Grant program, which is allocated to agencies that provide emergency shelter, traditional housing, services, prevention activities or rehabilitation work to the homeless population.

The Board discussed the funding status and the applicants for the grant. BURA was informed that the funding amounts have been finalized and these were published on the Internet. Not all agencies that applied for the grant meet the statutory requirements for what the program requires. HUD limits the dollar amount that can be spent under each category. An administrative amount of seven percent (7%) is included in each category.

Council Member Kearns made the motion to approve the above item, contingent on certification of funds by the Financial Control of Agencies and Agency Counsel approval of all Agreements; seconded by Ms. Oehler and carried unanimously.

12. OTHER

Agenda Item 12a – 1542 Main Street Rehabilitation – SEQR Negative Declaration

Submitted to Agency Member for approval, is a proposal from Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Inc. to undertake the substantial rehabilitation of two connected buildings located at 1542 Main Street and 964 West Ferry Street. The buildings will house office space on the first floor and a total of ten low-income apartments on the second and third floors. BURA proposes to partially finance the project under the HUD HOME Program. Prior to the implementation of the above action, the requirements of the N.Y. State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) must be satisfied. The project is an “Unlisted Action” for which the completion of an uncoordinated environmental assessment. In accordance with Section 617.7 of the regulations, that the impacts resulting from the proposed action will not have significant adverse impacts on the environment. There are no outstanding preservation issues at this time.

Ms. Kosmerl encouraged the acceptance of this Item stating that this project will house HOME Inc., which is the primary Fair Housing Agency and will permit them to produce top quality work.

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Council Member LoCurto made the motion to accept the above item, seconded by Corporation Counsel Lukasiewicz and carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 12b – Developer Redesignation – Heart of the City Neighborhoods Inc.

Submitted to Agency Members for approval, is a request from Heart of the City Neighborhoods Inc. to extend their designated developer status, which will expire on June 20, 2008. Last year HCN submitted a funding request to the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal to support the construction of two, four unit apartment buildings with units ranging from 900-1100 square feet in size. The application was not approved. HCN with strong encouragement from DHCR is reapplying for finding of the project. HCN is in good standing and will continue to pay the monthly payment of \$500.00. The designation will expire on December 20, 2008 or upon written notice from DHCR that the resubmitted application has been rejected.

Stephanie Siman was present to answer any questions on behalf of HCN and provided the Board with information regarding the design and funding for the Project.

Commissioner Tobe made the motion to accept the above item contingent on conditions stated in Agenda Item 12b, seconded by Council Member LoCurto and carried unanimously.

13. CONSENT ITEM

No Submission

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Corporation Counsel Lukasiewicz made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Oehler and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 A.M.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held at **9:30 a.m., May 8, 2008**, in Room 209 City Hall, Buffalo, New York.

Respectfully submitted,

**Scott C. Billman
Secretary**

**Reported by:
Tracy A. Lasker**