

**BUFFALO URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY
MAY 8, 2008
ROOM 209**

**MEMBERS AND
OFFICERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Brown, Chairman
Council Member Kearns
Commissioner Penksa
Commissioner Tobe
Alisa Lukasiewicz, Corporation Counsel
Council Member LoCurto
Council President Franczyk

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Oehler

SECRETARY:

Scott C. Billman

OTHERS PRESENT:

Carla Kosmerl, OSP
Lynn Urbanski, OSP
Michele Finn, Legal Aid Bureau
Alan Tuber, Community Services
Shannon M. Kohn, HOME, Inc.
Jim Folan, Contract Admin.
Tracy Diina, Literacy Volunteers
Val Vigiano, ABLE
Beth Sudebottom, SPCS
Kathy Peterson, Parkside Community Assoc.
Michelle Barron, BERC

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 9:19 A.M. Commissioner Tobe made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the **April 24, 2008**, and that they are accepted; seconded by Corporation Counsel Lukasiewicz and carried unanimously.

3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

**Agenda Item 3a – Contract Amendment – Time Extension and Budget Revision
unyse**

Submitted to Agency Members for approval, is a request to provide a contract amendment (CD 1214-31) for **unyse**, a division of Environmental Education Associates. Additional funds in the amount of \$100,000 have been identified to fund the contract extension. The revised contract dates will be May 1, 2005 through April 30, 2009.

unyse will continue to provide a variety of services to ensure BURA compliance with all applicable requirements and regulations of the HUD Final Rule and Requirements for Notification, Evaluation and Reduction of Lead-Based Paint Hazards in Federally Owned Residential Property and Housing Receiving Federal Assistance. The Rule covers the CDBG, HOME, ESG, HOPWA and the Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant programs.

unyse will assist in monitoring rehabilitation projects conducted under the City of Buffalo's Federal grant programs. The primary responsibilities of unyse include monitoring contractor performance during construction, final approval of work performed, and the testing of compliance with laws and regulations, and other work as needed to ensure compliance.

Commissioner Penksa 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 Lukasiewicz and carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 3b – Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME)

Submitted to agency members for approval, is a request for authorization to contract with Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) for \$75,000 to provide comprehensive services to victims of housing bias, services to include Paralegal Counseling, Technical Assistance to Government and Not-for-Profit service providers, Community Education and Fair Housing. This program will operate from May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009.

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.

Agenda Item 3c – Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo

Submitted to agency members for approval, is a request for authorization to contract with Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo for \$60,000 to bring about equitable resolutions to City of Buffalo residents who have legal problems in housing related matters such as landlord/tenant relationships and housing code violations cases heard within Buffalo City Court. This program will operate from May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009.

Commissioner Tobe 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 Lukasiewicz and carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 3d – South Buffalo Community Association

Submitted to agency members for approval, is a request for authorization to contract with South Buffalo Community Association in the amount of \$131,525.00 to provide a variety of services to elderly residents of South Buffalo to provide essential information regarding benefits, programs and activities available to residents of South Buffalo by means of information and referral services. This program will operate from May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009.

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 Council Member LoCurto and carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 3e – Schiller Park Community Services

Submitted to agency members for approval, is a request for authorization to contract with Schiller Park Community Services in the amount of \$99,878.00. This proposed project will provide a variety of activities and services to area seniors. Activities will promote senior well-being, enhance their self worth and encourage independence. This program will operate from May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2008.

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 Council Member LoCurto and carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 3f – Parkside Community Association

Submitted to agency members for approval, is a request for authorization to contract with Parkside Community Association for \$17, 433 to provide community advocacy and a Summer Arts Program for Youth. This program will operate from May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009.

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.

Agenda Item 3g – Advisory Board for Lovejoy Elderly and Youth (A.B.L.E.Y.)

Submitted to agency members for approval, is a request for authorization to contract with Advisory Board for Lovejoy Elderly and Youth (A.B.L.E.Y.) for \$87,147 to provide human services to the elderly of the East Side/Lovejoy area of the City of Buffalo. This program will operate from May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009. Val Vigiano was present to answer questions for the Board.

Corporation Counsel Lukasiewicz 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 Commissioner Penksa and carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 3h – Literacy Volunteers of America, Buffalo and Erie County

Submitted to agency members for approval, is a request for authorization to contract with Literacy Volunteers of America, Buffalo and Erie County for \$12,518 for tutoring services for youth, adults and seniors. The services will take place in city based neighborhood libraries and service centers. This program will operate from May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009.

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 Council Member LoCurto and carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 3i – Amendment to Yr 32 Ellicott Sign and Storefront Program

Submitted to agency members for approval, is a request to amend the agreement with the Buffalo Economic Renaissance Corporation for the Ellicott District Sign & Storefront Improvement Program to increase the contract by \$15,000. With approval of this amendment, the new contract total will be \$35,000. The program provides grants for façade improvements to small businesses located in the Ellicott District. The maximum amount of assistance is \$2,500. To be eligible for assistance, applicants must be a small business that serves all the residents of the surrounding neighborhood and be located in a low/moderate income neighborhood. This increase in assistance will aid an additional six (6) business owners in the Ellicott District.

Commissioner Tobe 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 Commissioner Penksa 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)

No Submission

11. EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT

No Submission

12. OTHER

No Submission

13. CONSENT ITEMS

No Submission

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Tobe made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Penksa and carried unanimously.

Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency
May 8, 2008

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 A.M.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held at **9:30 a.m., May 22, 2008**, in Room 209 City Hall, Buffalo, New York.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott C. Billman
Secretary

Reported by:
Tracy A. Lasker