

City of Dunkirk

Meeting Minutes

Economic Development Committee

May 29, 2012

Attendees: Andy Gonzalez, Councilman
Bill Rivera, Councilman
Stephanie Kiyak, Council Member-At-Large
Steve Neratko, Director of Planning and Development
Tim Gornikiewicz, CDBG Administrator, Planning and Development Department
Nichole Waite
Mayor A.J. Dolce
Councilwoman Stacy Szukala, Guest
City Attorney Ron Szot, Guest
Tony Gugino, Director of Public Works

Call to Order: 11:00 am

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:

A motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 24, 2012, was made by Councilman Rivera and seconded by Councilman Gonzalez.

Issues Discussed:

All of the following are ongoing discussions and updates of previous issues and also new issues, mostly centered on available grants that the Development office is pursuing.

Grants: Steve Neratko, Director of Planning and Development, informed the Board that Consolidated Funding Applications (CFA) are due July 16, with an addition week granted to forward attachments via US Mail. All CFA applications (also referred to as State Bundled Applications) are due by online submission.

Steve and Nicole attended a workshop in Buffalo the previous week. The agenda focused mainly on grants available.

Steve has been working with SUNY Fredonia on a couple of grants they are applying for (one in particular is for a potential Arts Incubator that would be located in Dunkirk).

Steve is working with Chadwick Bay Marina to help them acquire a grant, and is planning on meeting with the owners later in the week (Jeff Gambino and Mike Pucci). Their grant is due the same time as all the other grants—July 16th.

Steve is also working with Developer Brian Burke in grant funding to restore the Flickenger Building (Burke's vision is a mixed-use building that includes residential lofts and businesses). It was pointed out that Papaya Arts leaving the Chadwick Lofts building (in May 2012) could potentially affect their application negatively.

Main Street Grant – Steve is working with Chautauqua Opportunities. They're seeking potential locations. Some of the criteria was discussed: the grant covers some specific interior and exterior renovations; the houses must exist within a 3-block, residential radius, and the upstairs must be residential.

The Coburn Building was discussed as a possibility for a Main Street Grant. It may also be eligible for \$15,000 "streetscape" improvements.

Seawall Grant – Steve is meeting with the engineering firm Nussbaumer (this Wednesday) with the hopes that the final design of the new wall would fall within the definition of "green", which would open the possibility of seeking grants that encourage "green" construction.

There was discussion about a \$1000 grant specifically for trees and supplies for planting trees (that is due in December). There's also a "tree inventory grant" – the city would do an inventory of current trees around the City and then apply for a "tree management program".

It was pointed out that a resolution passed by Council would be needed for all grant requests.

Steve suggested that we consider hiring a "grant writer", paid per diem.

There is a deadline of June 21st for the Arbor Day grant and the Tree Inventory grant.

CDBG Updates – Applications are due this Friday at 4:00 pm.

HUD Monies will be dispersed to the City in the near future.

Pictures of houses need to be taken for the City Paint Program.

5-year Plan – Steve is working with SUNY Buffalo to obtain an assistant. It is hoped that our current intern, Travis Gordon, will be able to fill the position. A stipend of \$5,000 is being considered (we currently have \$15,000-\$20,000 more available for administration of the program). Steve is currently focusing on a campaign to involve the citizens in the 5-year plan, and figures it will take at least a year to properly promote. Council would need to pass a resolution to hire Travis.

It was also pointed out by Steve that our HUD representative (Mr. Lambrose) has informed him that although in the past the City promoted as much as 20 programs utilizing CDBG funds, the thinking is that the City should endorse only a total of only 4 or 5 larger programs.

Boardwalk Update:

- Steve met with them last week and discussed the upcoming festivals.
- They expressed an interested in contributing towards the advertising of the festivals, as well as the Boardwalk itself.
- Anderson bus is considering making the Boardwalk one of their regular stops (they currently go to the "Crossroads" indoor market).
- They are considering billboard advertising.
- Steve informed us that the Development office plans on meeting with the Boardwalk tenants at least once a month.
- Yummy's has an upcoming fundraiser that encourages residents to bring their dogs. Liability issues were discussed, as well as the overall lack of permission for something so out of the ordinary.
- All Boardwalk leases are current, and a printout was provided to us (attached).
- Steve informed us the tenants are requesting that "business hours" be included in future contracts, or perhaps agreed upon within the Boardwalk association that has been formed.
- Councilwoman Szukala suggested that the Boardwalk consider "Christmas on the Boardwalk" and will approach the Boardwalk association with ideas.
- The tenants have expressed an interest in doing a "Sunday at the Boardwalk", as well as a Fall/Winter Festival.

Festivals:

First movie will be this Friday at 9:00 pm at the Falcon Club ("The Muppets" will be playing). It will be an outdoor movie, with popcorn and hotdogs available. Moviegoers are encouraged to bring their own chairs.

"Anything That Floats" is coming up this June 9th.

Tickets will be available prior to the Wing Fest and the Wreck and Roll.

Development is working on marketing "Dunkirk Summer on the Lake", with advertisements in the paper and on the city website.

Banners will be displayed across Central Avenue announcing events (one large, twelve small).

The City is looking for a group to sponsor a Spaghetti dinner for August 24th. Councilman Gonzalez will ask his church if they are interested. This offer is open to any non-profit. The purpose is to provide food for the upcoming Triathlon event.

July 26th will have a motorcycle event coordinated with Music on the Pier. It is anticipated that 200-300 bikes will participate.

Music on the Pier on August 9th will feature a chicken barbeque.

Music on the Pier will begin every week at 5, with few exceptions. It is hoped to encourage residents to come early and enjoy their evening meal before the band goes on at 6:30.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn at 1:08 P.M. was made by Councilman Rivera, and seconded by Councilman Gonzalez.

Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday, June 26, 2012 at 11:00 am in the City Hall Conference Room.