

City of Dunkirk

Economic Development Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 15, 2014
1:30 pm Mayor's Conference Room

Attendees: Stephanie Kiyak, Council Member-At-Large, Chair
Bill Rivera, Councilman, Board Member
Stacy Szukala, Councilwoman, Board Member
Lacy Lawrence, Deputy Director of Planning and Development
Nicole Waite, CDBG Administrator
Richard Halas, FAO
AJ Dolce, Mayor
Ron Szot, City Attorney
Gib Synder, Observer
Susan Chipone, Buffalo News

Call to Order: 1:37 PM

Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Stacy Szukala and seconded by Stephanie Kiyak to approve minutes of March 13, 2014 meeting.

Issues Discussed

Ongoing Business:

CDBG activity reports: No drawdowns of funds for 2014 thus far. Nicole is currently working on the 2014 Annual Action Plan Draft (handouts were provided of the draft budget – attached). The Plan will be going out for public comment Friday, April 16th, and the Plan is due to HUD by May 19th. There will be a Public Hearing Friday, May 2, 2014 at noon in the Mayor's Conference Room. This is Year 2 of the 5-Year Plan that was submitted to HUD. The main plans focus on housing and infrastructure, with the majority on housing rehabilitation, street repairs and water line repairs/replacements. Housing rehab (with will be handled by COI) is only available to owner-occupied, and applications have been accepted for over a month now. Some rental rehabilitation funding will be set aside, with the bulk of it being focused on Rural Ministry (apartments in the upper floors of the Coburn Block on Central Avenue), which will be tied-in with the Main Street Grant as well. Some of these funds will be used as the matched grant portion of the Main Street Grant (only for the windows upstairs). It was questioned if funding will be used for "streetscapes" – Nicole said it would be tied into work designated for Washington Park (and a little for Pangolin).

Boardwalk Update: All tenants up to date except for Yummy's. A new tenant has been approved for the vacancy that Yummy's leaves, and it will be replaced by another ice-cream shop. Yummy's is now past due 3 months, and the city attorney is taking all legal steps to remedy the situation.

Festivals: Festival Committee had a meeting March 27th. Discussed photographing events (last year an intern was paid a small fee to photograph and post to the City's Facebook page). It is yet to be determined how to proceed at this point, and discussions will continue at the next scheduled meeting. A new marketing manager for the Visit Dunkirk Today website has been selected (Lacy and Tim will oversee the website).

Landbank Update: No updates at this time since the last economic development meeting.

Grant(s) update: No updates at this time since the last economic development meeting. Since Steve wasn't able to attend this meeting, issues from the March meeting will be followed up in May (status on seawall and Mainstreet).

Marina project update: Nothing new to report at this meeting – will follow-up in May.

Start-Up NY program (SUNY): Nothing new to report with this program. Details of this plan are now available on the SUNY Fredonia and JCC websites.

New Business

No new business.

Adjournment:

Motion made to adjourn at 2:23 pm by Stacy Szukala, seconded by Bill Rivera.