

City of Dunkirk

Meeting Minutes

Economic Development Committee

April 24, 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
Mayor A.J. Dolce
Gib Snyder, Observer Reporter
Councilwoman Stacy Szukala, Guest
City Attorney Ron Szot, Guest
Nick Penque, Guest

Call to Order: 11:01 am

Approval Of Last Meeting Minutes:

A motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 27, 2012, was made by Councilman Rivera and seconded by Councilman Gonzalez.

Issues Discussed:

Compliance Issues: Steve Neratko, Director of Planning and Development, informed the Board that he's been in contact with our HUD representative (Mr. Lambrose) regarding outstanding compliance issues. As of this meeting, we are still waiting to hear back from him. Steve assured us that all issues are being worked on in a timely fashion.

Bike Path Information: Steve Neratko, Director of Planning and Development, informed the board that CDBG funding is no longer available for bicycle path projects. \$40,000 was granted and earmarked for the bike path project at Point Gratiot; we will now need to consider another project that would comply with CDBG guidelines.

“Street Scape” was brought up and it was questioned how much is allocated in the budget, as well as the scope of the project. It was noted that Tony Gugino, Public Works Director, would be invited to future meetings in order to ask questions regarding this project as well as others that would fall within the scope of his department.

Nicole Waite was introduced as the new part-time DLDC administrative assistant. She will be working 5 days a week, approximate hours being 9 am to 1 pm.

Steve brought up the DLDC loan portfolio and said that there are 8 out of 10 loan in a delinquent status. One of the borrowers, Lightning Circuit, recently made a payment and is now on an automatic payment billing schedule. Steve’s department has made contact with the other 7 borrowers, and Chautauqua Woods (another borrower) has informed him that the company plans on refinancing and paying off their loan within the next month.

Steve mentioned that the IDA/County and other agencies have created a new application form for borrowers, and he suggested that the DLDC adopt this comprehensive application for future borrowers. He said that there was also a possibility that joint funding could be made available through consolidating loan applications.

Festivals were brought up – sponsors are trickling in and contact has been made with vendors, as well as a poster being worked on. Tim and Mayor Dolce have met with the Coors vendor to address concerns they have. Andy Gonzales suggested that a Latin Festival would be supported by many in the community, and he gave contact information to Steve and Tim to follow up.

June 1, 2012 will be the first “family” movie to be shown at the Falcon Club. Sponsoring a movie event costs \$400, which includes the fees for the movie rental. It is hoped that there will be 4 or 5 movies shown this summer, and hopefully one will be an outdoor venue in Washington Park. Other locations are also being considered.

CDBG 5-Year Plan: Steve informed the group that an Annual Plan will be due in February 2013, and shortly thereafter a 5-year plan is also due. It was suggested by Mr. Lambrose, our HUD representative, that perhaps we seek the help of a student intern (a graduate student) from the University of Buffalo, majoring in the Urban Planning Program. Steve also informed us that it is mandatory to seek public opinion so we will be reaching out to the public via the Observer and perhaps the city website as well. Councilwoman Szukala inquired whether a new municipal building would apply for these grant monies – it is still to be determined. It was discussed that there are three components to the 5-year plan: 1) research other communities, 2) make a list of what can and cannot be funded and 3) seek public participation.

Steve mentioned other grants that are available and said that we need to consider which grants the city should endorse and which we should actually write and undertake. In addition, he added that it’s better to focus on only a few key grants rather than several smaller ones. He mentioned that Krog Development has their own writing staff, but that developer interested in the Flickenger Building would need our help with grant funds. Other projects to consider include the seawall project on Lakefront Boulevard, Point Gratiot and the Boardwalk marina. Steve said that at best, the Development office can write one or two this year, and that we can perhaps

endorse two others. It was also questioned if bicycle racks would fall under the scope of CDBG funding, and it was also pointed out that bike racks already exist at the Boardwalk. Steve and Tim will be attending a workshop in May for ARK (Appalachian Regional ???) grants. These grants are outside the 4-5 recommended grants.

Steve mentioned another grant that addresses “brownfields”. Called “Brownfield Opportunity Act”, we are currently addressing the site at Robert’s Road, having completed Phase I, with Phase II underway. It was explained that Phase I is an overview of the location; Phase II is site specific and includes the cleanup and marketing plan; Phase III is the implementation stage (doing whatever is necessary to prepare the site for sale). There is a 10% match requirement for this grant, and it is outside the 4-5 grant maximum that Steve stated earlier that we should be focusing on. Steve said that a list of locations will be provided at the next meeting.

Other Items: Thursday, May 3rd at 6:00 the Planning Board will meet in the conference room. The Housing Rehabilitation project will have a press release stating that applications must be in the Development Office by May 30, 2012 for consideration. There is \$100,000 available for window and door replacement on residential homes. The city website is close to being finished, and Councilwoman Szukala suggested that the 5-Year Plan questionnaire be put on the website for residents to help participate – all agreed it was an excellent idea. It was also suggested that we allow community groups to share their information with residents through our website.

Paint Program: Tim informed the group that the Paint Program had between 12-14 applications; however, 3 of the applicants weren’t qualified due to unpaid taxes. Leftover funds will be carried over to next year’s budget. It was suggested that a questionnaire be created for participants in this program state what they believed worked and didn’t work to help improve the application process in the future.

Adjournment:

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

Next Meeting Date:

May 29, 2012 at 11:00 am in the City Hall Conference Room.