

November 10, 2020 · 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM



Attending: George Scott, George Alexander, Lillie Wiley-Upshaw, Sharon Holley, Roxanne Kise, Carmen Swans, Dr. Lillian Williams, Dorothy Hill, Dr. Cynthia Conides, Sharon Holley, Ch Owunwanne, Terry Alford, Audrey Clark.

Meeting was called to order at 1:32 by Commission Co-Chair, Lillie Willey Upshaw.

Approval of last meeting minutes: Motion to approve by Dr. Cynthia Conides, seconded by Lillie Wiley-Upshaw. Minutes approved.

Finance Report/Updates:

1. Finance Report/CPA

Period ending 10/30/2020

Money Market Account ending in....1992

Beginning Balance:	\$ 1050.89
Interest Paid:	+ <u> .01</u>
Ending Balance:	\$ 1,050.90

Business Reward Checking Account ending in....4697

Beginning Balance:	\$ 18,943.56
2 Additions:	\$ 6,787.44
8 Subtractions:	<u>- 19,965.73</u>
Ending Balance:	\$ 5,765.29

*Note: approval of overdraft went through

Reward Checking Account ending in....4711

Beginning Balance:	\$ 57,425.69
2 Addition:	+ 13,574.88
22 Subtractions*:	<u>- 37,574.88</u>
Ending Balance:	\$ 33,477.32

2. 2021 – 2025 Five-Year Budget (Draft)

- Five year budget is based on the success of the fundraising plan put together by the fundraising consultant. The budget was set at a \$500,000 annual budget by the fifth year. The budget is still a work in progress.
- Terry will send out the projected budget for commissioners to review and make suggestions for improvements.

- Roxanne is talking to ESD and UB to see where the remaining money from them should go because it isn't income but needs to be included in the budget.
 - i. Lillie asks if the \$3 million is guaranteed. Roxanne clarified that every project that comes from that \$3 million will require us asking ESD for permission. It will include a new GDA for each project. ESD needs proof on why they are giving us money and it needs to be specific.
- Five Year Work Plan
 - i. Staff Development Day took place on 10/26/2020 to discuss roles and responsibilities. Result was an action plan with a list of projects. Terry asks the commissioners to review the work plan and give feedback on what is the most important to prioritize first.
 - ii. After hearing from Terry about the Staff Development Day, Lillie suggested having a Board Development Day to discuss roles and responsibilities of commissioners. The commission agrees to extend the next meeting on December 8, 2020 from 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM. The first half hour will be for the general commission meeting. The remaining time will be for the SWOT. Terry, Audrey, & Roxanne will create an agenda and package of meeting materials.

Old Business:

1. Fundraising Plan and Master Strategic Action Plan
 - Fundraising - First draft is due before the end of this week. Changes can be made afterwards so that there is time to make adjustments. The goal will be to put the plan into action by January 1.
 - Strategic Action Plan- just waiting on GDA, everything else has been approved (budget, scope, etc.). Laura Q. & Chi are trying to push the process along on their end.
 - i. Terry contacted LaToya K (Moody Nolan's Project Manager) and asked them to create a draft of a contact and a press release. The hope that once the GDA is approved we can announce it and move it forward. Moody Nolan will likely come to Buffalo to get a feel for the area.
 - ii. Audrey has been reaching out to community stakeholders to make them aware of our upcoming plans.
2. 509 Michigan/lots around the Nash House
 - City Representatives reached out to the commission to meet with us this Thursday 11/12/2020 at 9AM to talk about the lots around the Nash House. The executive committee has accepted the invitation and we will report back.
 - i. In past meetings with the city, the commission has made it known that we are interested in 509 and the lots around the nash house. Mayor Byron Brown has stated that they are not in the position to grant land due to the pandemic.
 - ii. Locating the original DASNY grant has been key to see if we are listed as a co-applicant to develop 509. Mark Boyd has found the original application and has discovered that we are not a co-applicant.
3. Any committee reports/updates/announcements
 - History & Preservation

- i. Common Council is voting on the Historic District Designation for Sycamore and Broadway. We expect that the vote will pass since the Council President made it known that he supports the designation.
- ii. Virtual Meeting with PBN - redevelopment for 68 & 72 Sycamore scheduled for next week on 11/17/2020 from 6 - 7 PM
- iii. Introduction to JM Reed - relator who works along Sycamore. He has accepted an invitation to be a part of the Economic Revitalization Committee. He will introduce Terry to the two families who own most of the properties. Reed thinks with the new Historic Designation status the land owners might be open to selling since redevelopment will become more difficult.
- iv. Owner of a gas station in Sycamore might be open to partnering with us to bring a coffee shop to the area.
- v. Terry spoke to Dr. Hicks who owns the lots in the middle of the sycamore area. They are looking to recognize their father with their lots. They are willing to partner with us if we help celebrate the history of black medical professionals in the area.
- Brownfields Meeting
 - i. There are several sites that have possible contamination from industry. We reached out to the Brownfields at NYS to learn about their granting procedure.
- Economic Revitalization Committee
 - i. Invited 5 individuals to be a part of the committee. They range from workforce development to banking and investing. We will begin meeting monthly.
- Terry asks that all committee chairs create a small work plan for their committee to help the organization move forward in preparation for creation of the Strategic Action Plan
- Nominating Committee - Roxanne asks Dr. Conides and George Alexander to create a nominating committee with the assistance of Terry. Roxanne suggests a new person to head a fundraising committee.
- Governance Report from Dr. Cynthia Conides
 - i. United Way- training for developing boards is offered through five sessions online at your own convenience. It is \$200 per participant. The next round will be in April 2021.
 - Terry reports that capacity building through consultants is offered for free through ESA. Terry will send the process for hiring a capacity building consultant to the commissioners for review to select the ones that we need.
 - ii. Chairy Strong - training with board members and recruiting board members. They are focusing on NYS. They also offer educational resources. Discussion on how best to sign up needs to be had.
 - iii. Chi reports on the ESA Capacity meeting - Terry has a list for the commissioners to start with, but they are not the only list. We can look into other consultants as well. ESA will pay for capacity building. United Way is a group they would be happy to pay for.
 - iv. Roxanne talked about expanding the board with members who live in the corridor. Specifically looking at Religious Organizations, Schools, Block Clubs, etc.

New Business:

1. William @ Michigan Tim Horton's art request
 - Owner of the new Tim Hortons asked us to assist in suggesting art/artists to create murals for his restaurant. Next Tuesday we will be meeting with him at the restaurant to look at space. Terry asks the commissioners to suggest an artist to recommend. Terry will reach out to John Baker to see if WNYUAC Black Artist Collective might be interested. Sharon said that we should suggest places that no longer exist (Little Harlem, Vine St. Church, Moongrill, YMCA, etc.) All commissioners agree that Sharon's idea is excellent. Roxanne suggests we ask Craig S. if there are pictures.
2. Christmas/MLK Birthday/Black History Month
 - Christmas tree lighting to be held at the church.
 - Docent meeting was held this morning with four potential docents, all seemed promising.
 - Speaker bureau for MLK Day or Black History Month (matt holland buffalo history, jessie fisher from PBN)
3. Terry on Mark Moscato - buffalo bike tours wants to partner with us. Wants to partner with us and Cornelius Johnhons the Executive Director of the Jefferson District to do a Chicken Wing Tour. He wants to commission a mural of John Young, the original chicken wing creator. He has submitted a grant application for \$5,000. He wants our support to move forward.

Adjournment: At 3:01 pm, Sharon Holley made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Lillian Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried by acclamation.

Next EXTENDED Meeting: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 · 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm