

**CITY OF BUFFALO URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
901 CITY HALL**

MEETING DATE: January 24, 2019

MEMBERS AND OFFICERS PRESENT: Mayor Byron Brown
Council President Darius Pridgen
Brendan R. Mehaffy
Timothy Ball, Corporation Counsel
Commissioner Donna Estrich
Mr. Domenic Bonifacio
Council Member Joseph Golombek
Council Member Christopher Scanlon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Joseph Golombek

SECRETARY: Scott C. Billman

OTHERS PRESENT: Yvonne McCray, BURA Director of Housing, Tracy Cooley, FCA
BURA Deputy Director, Brenda Durfee, BURA, Maria Scinta,
BURA, Leslie Vishanath, Carley Mealey, BURA, Theresa Farrell,
BURA, FLARE, MUC, HOCN, UDCDA, Belmont Housing,
Westside NHS, OFW

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 9:45 am. Commissioner Estrich made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the November 29, 2018 meeting, seconded by Mr. Ball and carried unanimously.

CDBG

Agenda Item 3a - Housing Rehab Program, Program Delivery and Administration

Agency members approved a request to enter into a one year contract extension with Belmont Housing Resources of Western New York in the amount of \$350,000 for the administration of the Owner Occupied Housing Rehab Program. These funds will support the Owner Occupied Housing Rehab Program for the administration of approximately 75 additional loans. Belmont Housing Resources of Western New York was selected through an RFP process in 2017. The existing contract language provides the option to extend or renew the agreement for a maximum of three (3) additional one (1) year terms. This contract extension (1/1/19 - 12/31/19) would be the first contract extension to the original 2018 contract.

Mr. Bonifacio made the motion to approve Item 3a, seconded by Council Member Scanlon and carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 3b - Budget Modification & Time Extension (2017-2019) Community Partnerships Initiative Contract

Agency members approved a request to enter into a CPI contract time extension and budget modification with the Community Based Organizations (CBO) selected to administer the Community Partnerships Initiative contract. The six groups are: Fillmore Leroy Area Residents, Heart of City Neighborhoods, Lt. Col. Matt Urban Center, Old First Ward Community Association, University District CDA and West Side NHS. The contract dates of July 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018 have been revised to include a six month contract extension. The revised contract dates are July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019. The revised CBO contract budgets were determined by reviewing current program activities and existing contract balances. The funding amount, previously set at \$576,900, will be amended to \$767,300 with the increase of funds in the amount of \$190,400.

Mr. Mehaffy made the motion to approve Item 3b, seconded by Mr. Ball and carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 3c - Revolving Loan Fund Agreement Broadway-Fillmore NHS

Agency members approved a request to enter into a Revolving Loan Fund Agreement with Broadway Fillmore NHS to administer the Revolving Loan Funds that had been allocated to them. As of 11/30/2018 Broadway-Fillmore NHS had a loan portfolio valued at approximately \$460,000 offset by an allowance of approximately \$326,000. In addition, Broadway Fillmore NHS had \$54,954 in RLF monies in their RLF Bank Account. The term of this agreement is two (2) years effective January 1, 2019 and will continue through December 31, 2020. By mutual agreement of both parties, the agreement may be extended for one (1) additional year. There will be an administrative fee equal to one and one half percent (1.5%) per month of the aggregate principal balance of all active loans administered in the RLF Program. This fee is contingent upon the borrower monthly payments received into the RLF being at least equal to or more than the fee amount. If the monthly payments do not meet these criteria, the Sub-recipient will be subject to an admin cap based on the value of the payments that were submitted in the respective month.

Several years ago, the United States Government, pursuant to the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the Act), recognized the need to supplement private and public spending for housing in the nation's metropolitan centers.

The City of Buffalo was a recipient of these funds under the Act and Regulations promulgated pursuant thereto (hereinafter referred to as Regulations), in the form of a grant for supporting various community level programs directed at unmet housing needs. BURA was designated by the City of Buffalo to administer the Grant Funds.

BURA designated the Community Based Organizations (CBO) and Neighborhood Housing Services Agencies (NHS) to administer said Grant Funds as a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). Since these funds were allocated by HUD, HUD has advised that the sub-recipients either return the loan portfolio and all associated monies to BURA, or enter into a current agreement to administer the RLF with the existing funds already in their possession. No new funds are being committed.

Council Member Scanlon made the motion to approve Item 3c, seconded by Commissioner Estrich and carried unanimously.

OTHER AND DIVISION REPORTS

Agenda Item 4a - Approval of Cities RISE Phase II Agreement

Agency members approved a grant in the amount of \$80,000 from the Enterprise Foundation under Cities RISE Phase II that will be used to prepare a grant application that identifies an innovative approach to addressing code enforcement. Applications are due in August 2019, and successful applicants will be awarded up to \$1,000,000 for implementing their innovative approach. Cities RISE Phase II also gives the city continuing access to the Building Blocks platform, which has been provided to date under a grant from Cities RISE Phase I. BURA will be the grant recipient for this funding, and will work with Permit & Inspection Services, Citizen Services, Law, and Assessment & Taxation to both engage the community and develop the application.

Commissioner Estrich made the motion to approve Item 4a, seconded by Mr. Mehaffy and carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4,b,c,d - BURA Housing and Planning Updates (Informational Only)

Director Yvonne McCray, Division of Housing, Tracy Cooley, Deputy Director of FCA and Keith Lucas, Director of Planning provided Divisional reports to the Board.

There being no further business to discuss, Council President Pridgen made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Scanlon and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 am.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



Scott C. Billman, Secretary

Reported by: Risë Geller