

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

REMOTE MEETING VIA UBERCONFERENCE CALL

<https://www.uberconference.com/rgeller-alongi>,

Optional dial-in number: 720-835-5274, PIN: 14166

MEETING DATE: April 23, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Byron Brown
Brendan R. Mehaffy, Executive Director of OSP
Timothy Ball, Corporation Counsel
Commissioner Donna Estrich
Council Member Joseph Golombek
Council Member Christopher Scanlon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council President Darius Pridgen

SECRETARY: Scott C. Billman

OTHERS PRESENT: Yvonne McCray, BURA Director of Housing, Tracy Cooley BURA Deputy Director of FCA, Theresa Farrell, Carley Mealey, Dan Muscarella, Tony Chestnut, Leslie Vishwanath, Pam Walker-Jarmon, Evelyn Rodriguez, Reverend Jones – Mt. Aaron, Divitta Alexander, Esq. Ben Upshaw – Mt. Aaron, Reverend Kehr – Polly Jean Suites

1. Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.
2. Mayor Brown made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the January 23, 2020 meeting, seconded by Council Member Golombek and carried unanimously.

3. **HOME**

3a. **Polly Jean Suites, 892 Genesee Street My Place Home for the Homeless, Inc. Developer**

Agency members approved a request for HOME funding in the amount of \$125,000 that will be allocated to the developer or an entity formed by the developer for the specific purpose of the completion of this project. Polly Jean Suites is a \$1.8 million dollar project that involves the adaptive reuse and conversion of the vacant former Liberty Bank building into four (4) HOME assisted units of permanent supportive affordable rental housing for homeless individuals. The project will have a mix of six (6) studio and two (2) one-bedroom apartments. Four (4) of units will give preference to homeless individuals age 18-24 with three (3) units targeting individuals with severe mental illness and one (1) unit for the chronically homeless. My Place Home for the Homeless currently operates an emergency shelter a few blocks away from the proposed site and will be the support service provider for Polly Jean Suites. Additional referrals will be provided by the Homeless Alliance of Western New York and the Restoration Society. Rents will be affordable to households whose annual income is at or below 50% of Area Median Income but will be targeted to persons whose household income does not exceed 30% of AMI.

Motion made by Mayor Brown to approve Item 3a, seconded by Commissioner Estrich and carried unanimously.

3b. Mt. Aaron Village, 695 Genesee Street Community Hope Builders Community Development Corporation and CB Emmanuel Realty LLC, Co-Developers

Agency members approved a request for HOME funding in the amount of \$800,000 in HOME funds for the Mt. Aaron Project. The funds will be allocated to the co-developers or an entity to be formed by the co-developers for the specific purpose of the completion of the project at 695 Genesee Street. Mt. Aaron Village is a \$20.4 million dollar project that involves the new construction of townhomes and multi-family apartment buildings. There will be a total of 59 units in four multi-family rental buildings. One (1) three-story building with 16 one-bedroom units, Twenty seven (27) two-bedroom units, Sixteen (16) two-story, three-bedroom townhomes. Eighteen (18) units will be set aside for homeless households that include a head of household with a substance abuse disorder or mental illness and their children. Five (5) units will be fully accessible and three (3) units made available for sensory impaired tenants. All units will be affordable to households with incomes at or below 60% of Area Median Income. Eleven (11) units will be designated as HOME assisted. All units will be affordable to households with incomes at or below 60% of Area Median Income. Eleven (11) units will be designated as HOME assisted. Roswell Park Institute will provide job/employment linkage, information and skill building services to residents that are interested in these services.

Motion made by Mayor Brown to approve Item 3b, seconded by Council Member Christopher Scanlon and carried unanimously.

4. DIVISION REPORTS (INFORMATIONAL ONLY)

Agenda Item 4 a and b, - BURA Housing and FCA (Informational Only)

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

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Ball made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Estrich and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____
Scott C. Billman, Secretary

Risë Geller
Reported by: Risë Geller