

Economic Development Committee Meeting

Monday March 11th, 2024 – Development Department Conference Room

The meeting began at 4pm, in the conference room of the Economic Development Department. In attendance were myself Chair of ED Committee and Councilwoman Natalie Luczkowiak, Councilwoman Nancy Nichols, Julie Hutchinson, Nancy Hutchinson, Roger Orcutt, Paul Somerfeldt, Jim Fisher, MJ Stafford of the Observer Today, CDBG Administrator Nicole Clift, ED Director Vince DeJoy, Deputy Director EJ Hayes and Director of DPW Randy Woodbury.

1. CDBG Consolidated Plan development process with Nicole

In the process of a five year plan, a consolidated plan which follow the city's comprehensive plan. The development process is a five year plan for the next five years. At the library last week at 10:30, first public hearing was held, the second public hearing will be held on 3/20 at 5pm at the incubator. These are input hearings for possible projects and comment cards will be available. This is important, these will plan for the next five years.

1. Community Development Block Grant Projects

LMI - low moderate income levels. We are part of the ARC - Appalachian Region Commission - which will make for tremendous opportunities. The Washington Park spray pad is approved, and next steps to be taken. New sidewalks under and near the Agrarian market will be implemented in the Spring. The second priority will be safe access walkways in Wright Park.

1. Brownfields Marketing Master Redevelopment Plan

A grant has been received and the project began. Brownfield places have been identified. A brownfield site is where prior industry was in operation and there could be toxic matter underneath. A brownfield as opposed to green and healthy; however, only an area never built on could be known as green and healthy and not a brownfield. The level of clean up has to do with what can be built there. Builds could still happen if the area is not green altogether though. The new booklet for developers to view is a good source of information. The plan is on the website. An area with a building prior is always a brownfield.

1. Smart Growth Zoning Code Update

Department of State gave a grant for \$74,000 and we needed more because no one responded to our offer; therefore, we sought and received \$20,000 more, we now have 94,700 for a company to work on updating our system. Now, there are six proposals for the task, and we are setting up interviews to decide who to pick.. After deciding, there will be a public hearing and a committee developed.

1. Dunkirk Farmer's Market update

Begins June 12th, Refresco has stepped up as a major sponsor. Vendor applications are online. Possibly Steelbound will be a vendor. There is entertainment in the works too. Food stamp double up program will be available which is if you purchase \$20, you can actually purchase \$40, this begins the first week of July.

1. Restore NY Application

Round 8 applications were available again last week. This targets blighted properties for redevelopment. We will apply. And can apply for up to two million dollars. The Grant would go to the city and a developer who is interested in the project. The project must be completed by the developer, then, reimbursed.

1. ARC Power Initiative - Appalachian Regional Commission Power Initiative

Because we are now a part of this commission, there is a grant opportunity, the POWER initiative. 1.4 million grant available. We applied.

1. COI/PUSH Citizen Seminar - Natalie presented. I will put together a city presentation with the two presenters, Chautauqua Opportunities and PUSH of WNY, regarding Weatherization and Energy Efficiency. This will be in September.

Other Topics - breakwater project - fixing of the outer break wall fix is happening with the US Engineer Corps. It will take 2 summers to complete, and can only happen during a certain time of year. The money is coming from the Schumer earmark funds. Could extend and we will go as far as the money will take us. Councilwoman Nancy Nichols stated we must then have one on Lake Front Blvd. area from Main to Wright Park, we all agreed.

Eclipse glasses are available Wednesday to the public, and we have 10,000 for the eclipse.

At 3:30 pm 4/8/2024, 2024, there will be the events presentation, this is on the eclipse day. Festival/Events thought this would be the perfect day to have this, and therefore, make out of towers aware.

Grant application was submitted to the State DEC, regarding Urban Community Forest, requesting funding to purchase 150 trees to replace at Point Gratiot. Vince DeJoy believes we should receive this, hopefully.

Meeting ended at 5:05 PM