

Buffalo Community Development Committee Chair Rachel Teel-Vanderpool called the meeting to order at 6:02pm, in the Buffalo City Council Chambers. Present Rachel Teel-Vanderpool, Trent Adams, Angie Gadzik, Mayor Rodriguez, and City Clerk Tanna Leonard.

Rachel Teel-Vanderpool explained that while creating the agenda she went back in six months of minutes to find items that were supposed to be discussed by Community Development. She said this is why there may be some unusual items that are not normally seen on the agenda.

Front Street Improvement Project (Streetscape) Update

The clerk reported that she had emails from Gena McCullough from Bi-State indicating that the grant outcome would be finalized late February. There were two meetings in February that Gena requested attendance from someone from Buffalo. It was decided that Mayor Sally Rodriguez and City Clerk Tanna Leonard would attend these meetings. Gena also asked about the possibility of negotiating the match portion and the clerk said that they could use additional funds but those would be taking from match funds for the second phase. The committee discussed presenting the information to the council.

Streetscape fundraiser ideas

The Committee discussed ideas of selling Buffalo Merchandise, doing raffles, enchilada cook-off, chili cook-off, movies in the park, and community dinners.

Tax Incentive/Abatement

The committee discussed offering tax abatement projects to promote new construction and lure businesses to the community. The Clerk explained that she had worked with a law firm that specializes in the implementation of these incentives for communities. The Clerk would check pricing for this type of project and provide it to the committee.

Planning and zoning Comprehensive Plan Update

The Clerk reported that the comprehensive plan should be signed and approved by Bi-State on January 24, 2024. Planning and Zoning, and Community Development committees, need to establish the people that will sit on this board. The committee instructed the clerk to schedule a meeting with Planning & Zoning and Community Development.

Electronic System

Rachel Teel-Vanderpool explained that several residents had complained about the electronic meeting system in the council chambers for sound and video. The committee had discussions about funding. The Clerk felt that funds from Community Development would be better spent in other areas of the community and that regular City Government operation costs should be budgeted and funded by property taxes. The committee determined that the clerk obtain pricing on electronic updates, so it could be discussed further.

Community Dinners

Angie Gadzik reported that she hadn't had a chance to move forward with the community dinners and hoped to have a better update at the next meeting.

Beach Improvements

Rachel Teel-Vanderpool reported that at the last council meeting, a member of the public presented an idea to the council to see if they would be interested in supporting a project to improve the beach by adding a marina type area with boat slips to rent to offset costs and docking access to encourage visitors by boat. The council requested that Community Development consider the project and review its feasibility. Fire Chief Anderson provided input that it would be beneficial for the construction of a marina so that the new fire boat will be able to be housed on the water similar to Davenport Fire's boat house.

Trent Adams discussed his previous research on the boat ramp and that the project was put on hold due to the condition of the rail crossing adjacent to highway 22. He asked if Mayor Rodriguez could reach out to her contact and try to negotiate something. He also volunteered to reach out to the contractor that he previously received quotes from to obtain different pricing. The committee agreed to move forward with investigating the feasibility of the project.

Plans and Goals

The committee discussed future goals and the goal setting process.

The Committee discussed fine tuning their duties as laid out in the code, identifying a funding manual or process for projects, and determining an amount of funds for long-term and short-term projects.

Angie Gadzik said one of the short-term plans/goals, Camp Abe Lincoln. She would like to schedule the person in charge to come to the next meeting.

Mayor Rodriguez asked them to put more information on the social media pages to help spread the word about projects they are working on.

Adjourn

Motion by Rachel Teel-Vanderpool and seconded by Trent Adams to adjourn the meeting at 7:56pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes respectively submitted by Tanna Leonard.