



Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA
Clerk

TIMOTHY T. BURTIS
Chairman

TAMMY BARBER
Deputy Clerk

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PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES – MARCH 20, 2024 DAVID H. KNAPP, CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Meaker, Ms. Harvey, Mr. Olson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Ryan

ALSO ATTENDING: Chairman Burtis, Mr. Romeo, Mr. Brown, also see attached

Chair Knapp called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and the previous meeting's minutes were approved.

1. ONONDAGA CIVIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (OCDC):

- a. **Confirming Appointments by the Chairman of the Onondaga County Legislature to the Board of Directors of the Onondaga Civic Development Corporation (Christopher Daniel, Michael LaFlair, Kimberly Townsend) (Sponsored by Mr. Burtis)**

Comment from Chairman Burtis:

- Chris Daniel is a new appointment, Mike LaFlair and Kimberly Townsend have been on the board in the past

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- Kimberly Townsend is an impressive individual and has done a great job

A motion was made by Mr. Olson, seconded by Ms. Harvey, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

2. FACILITIES MANAGEMENT: Archie Wixson, Commissioner

- a. **BOND: A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of an Additional \$15,500,000 Bonds of the County of Onondaga, New York, to Pay Costs Related to the Renovation of the Former Central High School for use as a Steam High School in and for Said County (\$15,500,000)**

- Need \$15.5m to award the final contract and begin work at the STEAM school
- Bids received in February were more than what was originally authorized in 2019
 - Did not factor in COVID and other changes in the marketplace over the last 4 years
- NYS Department of Education will be reimbursing the Syracuse City School District (SCSD)
- SCSD will pay the county back in their lease agreement
- SCSD has 2% investment and will pay back the 2% differential as well as State Ed
- Bond issuance is 15 years
- SCSD will maintain the building throughout the term of the lease
 - County will not have operational maintenance expense

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- Once the project is complete and the county is made whole, will the deed be signed over to SCSD or City of Syracuse?
 - The property belongs to the City of Syracuse

County Executive's Office

- City of Syracuse transferred the building to the county for \$1.00 approximately 1 year ago
- Once the bonds are paid off, the building will go back to the City of Syracuse

- City of Syracuse owns all the buildings in the school district
- SCSD does not have their own assets
- Currently there are urban and suburban students attending the school
- Will that continue after the 15 years?

County Executive’s Office

- State Legislation authorizes the combination of non-city residents as part of the curriculum in perpetuity

A motion was made by Mr. Olson, seconded by Mr. Meaker, to approve this item. Passed unanimously;

- Is this a local General Contract?
 - General Constructor awarded to Murnane
 - Plumbing contract awarded to Burns
 - HVAC mechanical contract awarded to Crosby (out of Rochester)
 - Electrical awarded to Patricia

MOTION CARRIED.

3. DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING: Dan Kwasnowski, Director

a. INFORMATIONAL: Quarterly Update on Comprehensive Plan Implementation Packages



Onondaga County Legislature Planning and Economic Development Committee
 Comprehensive Plan Implementation Package

Quarterly Report #1

March 20, 2024

\$30 million dollars from Fund Balance allocated toward projects and programs to support implementation of Plan Onondaga.

Strong Centers - \$8,000,000

In addition to existing planning programs in local communities, these funds will drive local investment in villages, hamlets, town centers and Syracuse.

Community Development

\$5M Main Street Program – The county will continue to invest in our highly successful main street program initiative. This comprehensive grant program provides funding for local revitalization efforts to grow retail business districts. Revitalization examples include improving business facades, acquiring a property that is an eyesore, demolition of a property that is an eyesore, performing streetscape improvements and more.

Economic Development

\$3M Small Business Micro Loans – Targeted loans with below-market interest rates and favorable terms to local businesses in mixed use centers to provide gap financing for small business expansion, start-up, property acquisition, renovation, furniture, fixtures equipment and related expenses.

Quarterly Activities:

1. **Received Main Street applications from 21 municipalities requesting \$6.75m in grant funding with a match of \$2.5m for 91 projects.**
2. **Applications are currently under review**

Housing and Neighborhoods - \$12,000,000

To further the creation of a variety of housing in centers and build upon the Onondaga County Housing Incentive Program and implementation of the Onondaga County Housing Study being conducted now.

Community Development

\$5M toward addressing critical infrastructure issues that present a unique barrier to infill development in mixed-use centers.

\$5M toward the creation of expanded forms of Senior Housing including cottage homes, condominium and other senior living communities.

\$2M expansion of the O-CHIP program targeting the creation of mixed-use, mixed income and affordable housing.

Quarterly Activities:

1. Findings from the Onondaga County Housing Study were presented at the O.C. Planning Federation Planning Symposium on March 13. The study will be complete by the end of April, and implementation strategies are anticipated.

Request: Department of Planning to provide a draft of Housing Study for the May 2024 meeting if possible

Greenways and Blueways - \$5,000,000

Department of Planning

\$5M toward implementation of planning objectives relative to development and improvement of greenway and blueway programming and facilities. These projects may be county projects in parks, but will also include potential funding to municipalities, and possibly even private interests to further greenway and blueway development. Where possible, these funds will be matched with other funding sources.

Quarterly Activities:

1. Development of a Blueway System Plan for Onondaga County RFP.
2. Developing planning project for the Inner Harbor to further waterfront and development plans.

- Currently reviewing the final RFP for Blueway System Plan
- The plan is to take the Blueways map and create a systematic way of creating water trails
 - Will work with local communities to build up features, signage and other resources
- 3 positions open
 - 2 Planner III's and 1 Planner II
 - Would like to hire someone for the Greenways and Blueways program
 - Currently in process of advertising for those positions
- Did a joint waterfront plan for the Inner Harbor, the city is finalizing with NYS
 - The plan is for open space improvements with possibility of utilizing Greenways funding

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- Is your plan to work other counties?
 - No, do not have the bandwidth to expand to that
 - Did a 3 county grant with NYS DOS, state would not fund it
 - Would need agreements with 10 municipalities to satisfy requirements

Agriculture - \$5,000,000

Department of Planning

\$5M toward implementation of planning objectives found in Plan Onondaga and the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan centering on agritourism, farmland protection, and Regional Market improvements.

Quarterly Activities:

1. Coordination with the CNY Regional Market and NYS ESD. Secured NYS grant toward development of a CNY Regional Market Revitalization Plan to be funded with these county dollars and the NYS grant. RFP has been developed.

- Received \$100k grant from NYS to put towards a Market Revitalization Study for the Regional Market
- The Regional Market is both an Authority and a Public Benefit Corporation
- The Market is not eligible for many grants
- The Revitalization Study will look at:
 - How the Market functions within the community
 - What is needed
 - What the potential is
- The intention is to put the Market on a path of self-sufficiency before more money is put into it
- NYS owns the Regional Market property and buildings (under NYS Agriculture and Markets)
- Senator Magnarelli and NYS Ag & Markets are supportive of Revitalization Plan
- RFP is ready to go
- Great turn out for Agritourism grants; 40 applications from local businesses
- Planning would like to do Agritourism Plan

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- Last fall a presentation was put together; all local State representatives were in attendance
- Great to see small business people looking to expand or get into Agritourism area
- Grant program max is \$15k

- 2023 was a great year for OCDOP
 - Farmland Protection Plan
 - Plan Onondaga
 - Changed relationship with City

Law Department

- Micro loan program has been filed with the State
- Website should be available by the next Planning meeting

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
 DATE: **MARCH 20, 2024**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



TAMMY BARBER, Deputy Clerk
 Onondaga County Legislature

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
JOSEPA ITALIANO	HOMEOWNER
Archie Nixon	Fac. Mgmt.
Steve Morgan	Finance
Brian Donnelly	Finance
Tim Faldutsky	Comp
Ben Yarus	law.
Megan Costa	OCDOP
Don Krugowski	OCDOP
Darcie Lesniak	Log.
Jim Beube	
John Desantis	
Joe Frateschi	Legal Counsel