

COMMISSION MEETING

May 19, 2010
CDRPC Conference Room
One Park Place, Suite 102
Albany, New York 12205

MINUTES

PRESENT: John Graziano, Lucille McKnight, Michael Whalen, Judy Breselor, James Shaughnessy, Philip Barrett, Jason Kemper, John Murray, Paul Sausville, Barbara Mauro, David Vincent

ABSENT: Willard Bruce, Stan Brownell, Leon Fiacco, Michael Stammel, Fred Acunto, Robert Godlewski, Gary Hughes, Michael Petta

PRESIDING: Phil Barrett, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

1. Welcome/Introduction of Guests

Jean Sheviak, Executive Director of the Capital District Library Council

2. March 17, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were distributed before the meeting. No corrections were made.

Action Taken

Lucille McKnight made a motion to approve the minutes, and Jim Shaughnessy seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Financial Statement through April 30, 2010

The financial statement represents activities through April 30, 2010. The revenues are at 38% and the expenses are at 30.9%. There is approximately \$115,600 cash in the bank and outstanding receivables totaling just over \$131,000.

The first quarter invoices were sent out to the appropriate billing agencies for CDYCI, CSO, Water Quality, and the UPWP work programs.

Bonadio & Company has begun work on the 2009 Audit. A report will be presented to the Board at the July Commission meeting.

Action Taken

Lucille McKnight made a motion to approve the Financial Statements as presented and John Graziano seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Presentation by Jean Sheviak, Executive Director of the Capital District Library Council

The Capital District Library Council is one of nine regional Reference, Research, and Resources (3Rs) Library Council in New York State. CDLC provides programs and services to over 500 academic, public, school, and hospital, and special service libraries in Greater Capital Region. The CDLC provides infrastructure and information services to the libraries of ten upstate counties.

Jean Sheviak, Executive Director of the Capital District Library gave the Board a brief presentation of what CDLC brings to the community and programs and services they offer.

Some of the programs and services Jean mentioned that CDLC offers are *Documentary Heritage Program, Hospital Library Service Program, Medical Information Services Program, Cataloging Services, Digital Collections, Regional Automation, Resource Sharing.*

CDLC also brings to the community interlibrary loan, region-wide borrowing privileges, web catalogs, historical documents through the web, and networking and educational activities for library interest groups at all levels.

Paul Sausville inquired about the role libraries will play in twenty years given the major changes that are happening in the way the public gathers information and what may be the financial implications. Jean stated that libraries have been a gateway for information and that role will continue. The primary role of librarians is to teach people how to find what they need in the best way possible.

Librarians are now teaching children in elementary schools information technology techniques and it's become clear in studies that students who learn these techniques early on do much better in school in general. The children learn how to evaluate information, which helps them write better reports and research papers.

The funding issues are very challenging. Libraries are available to everyone regardless of economics. Libraries provide internet access and computer usage to inner city children who would not otherwise have those resources available to them. Libraries are unlikely to charge for services since it may limit access to only those who can afford the service.

5. Proposed Amendment to the Foreign-Trade Zone Alternative Site Framework Application

The Executive Committee met on April 28, 2010 with Mike Russo, US Government Relations & Regulator Affairs and Shelby Schneider, Economic Development and Empire Zone Specialists for Saratoga Economic Development Corporation to discuss the inclusion of GlobalFoundries within an amended Foreign-Trade Zone Alternative Site Framework application.

The Executive Secretary of the FTZ Board strongly recommended that CDRPC consider amending the ASF application to include GlobalFoundries. The FTZ Board staff was concerned that without the inclusion of GlobalFoundries, the economic rationale for a Magnet site at Luther Forest would be greatly reduced.

GlobalFoundries and the Saratoga County IDA have provided all the necessary documentation for inclusion within the ASF application.

The application has been submitted to the FTZ Board and a docket number has been assigned to the amended application and it will appear shortly in the Federal Register for a 30 day comment period. CDRPC will be advertising the proposed amended application in the legal section of the Saratogian.

Rocky is requesting Commission approval on the resolution for submittal to the Executive Secretary to the FTZ Board amending our application to permit the establishment of five magnet sites: the Port of Albany, Northeast Industrial Park, Florida Business Park Extension, Luther Forest-STEP, and Rotterdam Industrial Park.

Action Taken

John Murray made a motion to accept the proposed amendment and Paul Sausville seconded. The motion was accepted unanimously.

6. Department of Housing & Urban Development Sustainable Communities Initiative

The Dept of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) published the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program Advance Notice and Request for Comment. The notice indicated that HUD intended to make \$100 million available for a new Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program. HUD, EPA and DOT have formed the Partnership for Sustainable Communities and have committed to work together to coordinate policies and programs that support six Livability Principles.

Grant awards may not exceed \$5 million per recipient for areas with populations over 500,000 such as the Capital Region. A 20% match is required.

CDRPC is interested in applying for money under this program once a Notice of Funding Available is released by HUD. The Notice of Funds Available was to be issued in April 2010, however it has been delayed to late May, 2010. CDRPC and CDTC staff have held a series of meetings with our regional partners and representatives from each of the county planning departments to come up with ideas should we decide to submit an application. Grant monies would be sought to augment the New Visions plan in a manner that is consistent with the Livability Principles and would assist communities in the Capital Region with their development decision making process.

Rocky is requesting Commission approval to submit a grant proposal under the HUD Sustainable Communities Initiative.

Action Taken

John Murray made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to submit the grant proposal and Judy Breselor seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Update on CDRPC Census Activities and Response Rates

The Mail Participation Rate is the percentage of Census forms mailed back by households receiving them. The response rate for three of the four counties beat their 2000 rates by a minimum of 2 percentage points however, Schenectady County declined by 2 percentage points. 52 of the Region's 78 municipalities matched or beat their 2000 Mail Participation Rates and 41 of the 78 municipalities had Participation Rates of 80% or more in 2010, up from 23 municipalities in 2000. The Census Bureau is in the process of contacting all housing units that did not return a completed form to ensure everyone gets counted.

CDRCP received \$34,000 from DOS to assist in the education and outreach activities for the 2010 Census and staff is finishing up those activities at this point.

John Murray inquired if overall our participation rates were above the national average. Rocky stated that all four counties were above both the National average, which is 72% and the State which is 67%. The census tracts around the college campuses in the area had a significant increase in participation rates. SUNY Albany increased from 39% in 2000 to 75% in 2010. Union College increased its rate by three percentage points, while RPI campus went from 59% to 64%. The Russell Sage College increased its rate from 59% to 62%.

John Murray inquired why in several cases the village rates went down while in most cases the Town rates went up. Rocky stated that many of the town clerks in the rural communities, in particular, were much more aggressive in 2010 to make sure residents received the census forms.

Mike Whalen mentioned that the rural and urban areas are usually undercounted while suburban areas are generally more accurately counted.

Deb Shannon added that if housing units are on the master address file and are either a PO Box or city style address where mail can be delivered, the Census Bureau knows the housing units exist. If the census forms are not returned the Census Bureau will visit the housing units to make sure they are counted. The Census Bureau will attempt three site visits and two phone calls to get the completed Census form in order to insure an accurate count as possible.

8. Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan Update

A meeting was held with DEC on Monday, March 15, 2010 to reply to comments on Receiving Water Quality Models Report. The Albany Pool Joint Venture Team is

currently preparing a response to DEC's request for additional data to address concerns about bacteria from the CSO's at selected tributaries.

9. **Staff Activity Report**

Rocky informed the Board that the CDRPC website now has the Cost of Living Calculator posted and is available to measure living cost differences among 320 urban areas in the United States.

10. **Other Business**

There was no other business at this time.

11. **Next Meeting Date**

The next Commission meeting will be held July 21, 2010 at 8:30am.

Adjournment

John Murray made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Barbara Mauro seconded. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Mauro

Barbara Mauro

Vice Chair