



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Local Development Corporation (LDC)
January 8, 2025 at 12:00pm
City of Geneva, Conference Room

Board Members in Attendance

Craig Talmage (arrived at 12:03)
Dana Hollenbeck
Josh Miller
Martha Davis
Catherine Price – Via Zoom

Others in Attendance

David West, Director of Planning & Economic Development
Nicole Tillotson, City Clerk
Liz Toner, Events Coordinator

Other participants:

Jim Petropoulos, City Council
Charles King, Resident – Via Zoom

Agenda Items

Call to Order:

Acting Chair Hollenbeck called the meeting to order at 12:00 with no quorum present.

Financial Report:

Tabled to the February meeting

Invited Guest Speaker – Geneva City School District

Superintendent Bo Wright, Assistant Superintendent – Administrative Services Stephen Kruger, Assistant Superintendent – Business & Finance Jesse Lambert, and Director of Facilities Mike Reifsteck reviewed the Geneva City School District Capitol Project Proposal, which will be put to a vote on February 6, 2025. Superintendent Wright explained that it is the district's goal to always be involved in Capitol Project work. As a high aid rate district for every \$10 spent, \$9 comes back as reimbursable aid. Superintendent Wright explained that this project focuses on safety and mechanical improvements, and adds a traffic loop to the West Street School to help with congestion in that area during arrival and dismissal. He further explained that there is zero tax impact, as reserves and aid cover the entire project. The group described the proposed work to be done at each facility to include completing air conditioning at the North Street School as well as classroom facelifts, glass hardening, electrical upgrades, a generator, and façade modernization. The West Street School will gain a car loop, better outdoor play space, and a modernized facade. The High School will receive glass hardening, fire shutters, Family Sciences Suite upgrades and modernization, and upgrades to mechanical, electrical, plumbing, heating, cabinets and flooring. The Middle School will receive gym upgrades, fire shutters, glass hardening, boilers, air handlers, and a new heating and cooling system for the pool, as well as auditorium sound and lighting upgrades.

Chair Talmage asked what the LDC can do to promote the project, and wondered what didn't make it into the plans. Superintendent Wright asked the LDC to spread the word in the community that the project has no tax rate impact, addresses safety issues, and to get the word out about the vote on February 6, as well as the Public Hearing on January 30.

Councilor Petropoulos offered to share the project information at tonight's City Council meeting. He also raised concerns about run off from the tennis courts creating drainage issues. Discussion followed around the drainage plan built into the project that includes an underground water holding tank with controlled release at the West Street School.

GENEVA LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

CITY HALL- 47 CASTLE STREET- GENEVA, NEW YORK 14456

Executive Director- David West 315-835-0436 dwest@geneva.ny.us

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ROBERT SOLLENNE ('23) ~ CHEVANNE DEVANEY ('24) ~ DANA HOLLENBECK ('23)

PAULA BUCKLIN ('24) ~ ROBERT KOCZENT ('23) ~ DAVID LINGER ('23) ~ MARC RODRIGUEZ ('23) ~ PETER GILLOTTE ('23)

LDC Roster Update

Paula Bucklin has a lead for her former seat on the board.

Chair Talmage reconvened the Governance Committee, to meet the week of January 20. The Governance Committee is made up of Chair Talmage, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Ackart.

Chair Talmage recommended updates to the Nominating Committee, which will be made official in February. The Nominating Committee is proposed to include Ms. Hollenbeck, Mr. Rodriguez, and Ms. Davis.

Director West will also be recommended for reappointment as the Executive Director, and Ms. Toner will be recommended for appointment as the Deputy Director of the LDC.

YMCA Tax Relief Proposal Update

Attorneys are working on the closing.

BID Proposal Update

The IDA agreed to split the funding request of \$15,050 with the LDC, so the BID can retain staff. The ask will be reframed as an Economic Development financial contribution from both the IDA and LDC. Discussion followed around other ways the three groups can work together moving forward. Some suggestions included initiatives with Cornell, volunteer training, and working with Master Gardeners. It was noted that Chair Talmage is now a member of the BID Board.

PCCE AmeriCorps Vista Opportunity Update

Tabled for February meeting

Murals and Art Trail Update

Lead abatement has slowed the project, but offered the opportunity to update lighting, which the LDC may help fund.

Next Neighborhood Event

Ms. Davis recommends that neighborhood events continue to meet monthly or bi-monthly at the Bozzuto Center. An event will be held at the Presbyterian Church on February 1 that will include a cookie exchange, crafts and activities, for the Founders Square Neighborhood.

Chair Talmage suggested highlighting how the LDC supports economic development in the city without spending, perhaps advertising language to include "Neighborhood Event powered by the LDC."

Councilor Petropoulos shared that neighbors may get together to form a neighborhood watch that would be run by residents and overseen by a representative from the Police Department. Discussion followed.

Big Event Planning

Chair Talmage suggested a holiday lights drive through at HWS, to include cocoa and candy canes, etc. Discussion followed, will bring back for further discussion at the February meeting.

Partnerships with Funding Local Development and Fundraising Brainstorm

Discussion occurred around having knowledgeable people coming in to train on fundraising and grant writing. The Bozzuto Center Steering Committee has decided to make the Center available for local Not for Profits to use for no charge.

Marketing Update

HWS Interns have made modifications to the logo, they are looking for feedback. Please have feedback to Ms. Hollenbeck, to relay to interns. Interns will be invited to an upcoming meeting.

Tech Soup has a grant available that awards Canva Pro for free. Discussion followed.

Housing

Chair Talmage will connect with Habitat for Humanity, and invite them to an upcoming meeting.

Discussion followed around land trusts, and how the sale of city owned property can best be supported by the LDC.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 1:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Tillotson

Nicole Tillotson
City Clerk