

SYRACUSE URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY

Meeting Minutes

I, PAUL DRISCOLL, do hereby certify as follows:

1. I am the duly designated and acting Secretary of the Syracuse Urban Renewal Agency (the "Agency").
2. I attended a regular meeting of the Agency, held in the Conference Room of the Mayor's Office at City Hall, Syracuse, New York on the 23rd day of October
3. The meeting was convened at approximately 3:02 p.m., and a duly constituted quorum consisting of Mayor Stephanie A. Miner, Common Council President Van Robinson and Commissioner of Finance David DelVecchio were present throughout. In addition to myself, Assistant Corporation Counsel Thomas Babilon, Director of Planning and Sustainability Andrew Maxwell, City Planner Katelyn Wright and Assistant City Planner Susannah Bartlett were present.

Resolution No. 3220

Rescinding the Agency's previously authorized resolution No. 3029 which authorized an agreement with Home Headquarters, Inc. (hereinafter "HHQ") to provide up to one-hundred fifty-thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) of Harbor Brook Expenditure Plan Funds to fund the Delaware School Playground Project (hereinafter the "Project"). Tom Babilon introduced the resolution and David DelVecchio added that the resolution is being rescinded due to the original plans never came to fruition.

Following the introduction of this resolution, Mayor Miner made a motion to authorize this resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner of Finance David DelVecchio. Resolution No. 3220 was therefore unanimously adopted.

Resolution No. 3221

Authorizing an agreement with Say Yes to Education (hereinafter "Say Yes") to assist with the management of the Delaware Project and the Mundy Project (hereinafter "the Projects"). Specifically, this management includes reviewing project plans and specification to assure that the Projects foster the mission of Say Yes as outlined in the Resolution. Furthermore, after the Projects have been completed Say Yes will review the agreed upon strategies to foster community use of the projects and if appropriate, make recommendations to Syracuse City School District, the City of Syracuse (hereinafter "the City") and the Agency for modifications to project operations, to assure they are being operated in a manner that fosters the goals and purposes of the Say Yes program.

Van Robinson requested clarification as to where the funds originated. I, Paul Driscoll, explained that, as outlined in Resolution 3085, the Agency agreed to accept and use County funds. I further

explained that in the past the Projects weren't well articulated. Now that specifics have been put in place, success is anticipated. David DelVecchio explained that Say Yes will be handling managerial aspects of the Projects but approval of the use of funds will still be managed through the Agency.

Following the introduction and discussion of this resolution, Mayor Miner made a motion to authorize this resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner of Finance David DelVecchio. Resolution No. 3221 was therefore unanimously adopted

Resolution No. 3222

Authorizing the recommendation to the Common Council of the City of Syracuse (hereinafter the "Common Council") to modify and amend the Greater Syracuse Urban Renewal Plan by expanding the Urban Renewal Area to include the areas attached to Resolution No. 3222 as Appendix A and further described in Appendix B.

Katelyn Wright explained the Resolution and posited that the Agency is the most effective entity to address transitional neighborhoods and the modified Urban Renewal Area has been amended to include transitional neighborhoods. Mayor Miner stressed the need for Common Council support. Van Robinson inquired on the amount of input from Tomorrow's Neighborhoods Today (hereinafter "TNT"). Katelyn Wright noted that these modifications were derived, in part, from public input. Van Robinson again stressed the need to obtain TNT support. Mayor Miner further suggested reaching out to the Common Councilors. Both Mayor Miner and Councilor Robinson agreed that the proposed modifications will not be received positively by the Common Council at this time.

Following some further discussion of this resolution, Common Council President Van Robinson suggested putting Resolution No. 3222 on hold until further notice. Resolution No. 3222 was therefore placed on hold.

Resolution No. 3223

Authorizing the delegation to the Chair of the Agency (hereinafter the "Chair") to hire Agency employees subject to the confirmation of the availability of funds to fill the position by the Treasurer of the Agency, and subject to the approval of the hiring by resolution of the Agency's Board (hereinafter the "Board") within six months of the filling of the position by the Chair. Furthermore Resolution No. 3223 authorizes the delegation to the Chair to remove and discharge and Agency employee except in those instances where an employee is retained pursuant to a written contract.

David Delvecchio commented that, although not official, there was a policy that was followed prior to this Resolution. Tom Babilon noted that the hiring of Agency employees is subject to the confirmation of the availability of funds as outlined in the resolution.

Van Robinson asked why six months from the hire date is designated as the time in which the Board must approve the hire through resolution. Tom Babilon answered that in the past, six

months has been the longest amount of time taken for the Board to approve a hire. Van Robinson stressed that moving forward, approval of a hire by the Board should be done as soon as possible. David Delvecchio explained that although the Board may have taken up to six months to approve a hire in the past, it was first signed off by either Paul Driscoll, himself (David Delvecchio) or a qualified member of the City of Syracuse staff. Tom Babilon suggested that the time period can be reduced and Mayor Miner added that six months was chosen as a buffer period or cushion.

Tom Babilon noted that there is no requirement that the Board must approve the hiring of Agency employees and that delegation is legal. Van Robinson recalled a past Agency Board meeting that had a long list of people, both hired and removed or discharged, in need of Board approval. Some of the dates went back as far as 2010. Mayor Miner noted that the list was long due to backlogging from a previous administration.

Van Robinson asked the Board to consider changing the time frame from six months to four month.

Following the introduction and discussion of this resolution, Mayor Miner made a motion to authorize this resolution with a reflection of the change from a six month time period to a four month time period, which was seconded by Common Council President Van Robinson. Resolution No. 3223 was therefore unanimously adopted.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

SYRACUSE URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY

By: 
Paul Driscoll, Secretary