**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – April 16, 2024, UREC Board Meeting**

**NEW ITEMS ---**

**Rezoning of Properties –** Planning Department Public Hearing on April 11 reviewedrezoning plans submitted by Hamlin Design Group. Planning Board approved rezoning request with two modifications that will need to be approved or revised by Albany Common Council - (1) leave 97 & 99 Third Street zoned R-T, not incorporating them into the MU-NE rezoning that will apply to the Livingston Avenue properties, and (2) incorporate 192 into the MU-NE rezoning

**Target Circle Community Giving –** 78,308 votes that translated into $2,603.81

**FreedomCon 2024** – a virtual conference workshop series, will be held monthly on the 4th Saturday of each month beginning in January 2024 – **43 registrants**

**Upcoming Events (Please see UREC Events Calendar for details and registration):**

* **Groundbreaking** – Monday, April 22 at 2pm on Livingston Avenue
* **FreedomCon 2024** – Saturday, April 20 – Redlining and Urban Renewal in Troy, NY (rescheduled from March)
* **Appreciation Tea** – Friday, April 26 from 6pm -7:30pm in the backyard of The Myers Residence
* **FreedomCon 2024** – Saturday, April 27 – Soaring Sprits for Freedom: Harriet Tubman and Fanie Lou Hamer

**By the Numbers:**

* **Constant Contact** – 3051 contacts (down from 3070 last month) with a 4% open rate (down from 44% last month)
* **Tourists** / **Event visitors** – 149 (up from 105 last month)

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**Interpretive Center funding** –

* **NYSERDA** - $1,107,457.00 requested toward geothermal, solar, wood elements, timber frame,

underground filtration gallery - **Awarded**

**Albany County ARPA** - $80,000 toward IC construction - **Awarded**

* **Pomeroy Foundation** – Special Interest application submitted December 15 – interested in

Naming Rights – requested $150,000 – **Asked to request again in June 2024**

* **Americana Corner** – Preserving America funding can be applied to timber frame – max = $10,000

submitted December 15 – requested $10,000 – **Denied**

* **Albany County ARPA** – Community Development Grants – minimum amount to be requested =

$100,000 – submission deadline January 5, 2024 – **Awaiting response**

* **NEH Challenge Grant** – requested $250,000; we match with $750,000 – **Awarded**
* **EPF -** $15,000 toward timber frame costs **– Awarded**
* **M&T Charitable Foundation** – requesting $2,500 for YALI and $10,000 for IC **–** application in process
* **TDBank** – investigating TDBank Challenge for funding toward IC (TDBank Challenge = $1mil)
* **Compass Fundraising** - sent a proposal with a price tag offered at a discounted rate of $9,500 per

month over the six months of service, for a total of $57,000. Hmmm…

* **EPA Community Challenge Grant** – collaborative effort with 9 other non-profits. Requesting $5mil

**Operations funding – NYSED $25,000 –** still pursuing

-- **NYSED $150,000** – investigating source with help of Pat Fahy staff

**Geothermal –** 500 foot test bore to be drilled as soon as city issues permit – please see Geothermal Site Plan Revisions on UREC Board Login page

**Program** – **YALI Afterschool** 2023-2024 continues at Albany High School with 10 teens. Discussions have

commenced re: Legacy Project

* **Drawn to Art** with Marcus Kwame is hosted by Marcus Anderson each month on the 3rd Friday
* **Weaving Stories with UREC & Lori Kochanski -** 1st Friday of April and May
* **Girls Scouts** have resumed meeting every other Thursday
* **UREC Reads** continues on the 2nd Friday of each month – *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X Kendi
* **In conversation with Albany County staff in the Executive’s Office** to see if we can find a way or ways that UREC and the County can collaborate on community facing programs / projects
* **Schenectady Police Department Antiracism Training –** January was the first round, March is the second round. Meeting with 33 officers for 12 hours across 3 days, May is session 3 and August is session 4

**By the Numbers (from February 21-March 19)**

* **Members** – 430 national; 5 international
* **Constant Contact** – 3051 contacts (down from 3070 last month) with a 4% open rate(down from 44% last month)
* **Social Media** followers – 7800
* **Volunteers** (other than board members) – 5 gardeners; 7 fund development; 1 collections; 1 administration; 2 grant writers; Bou Scout Troop 23 (13)
* **Speaking Engagement + Number of Attendees** –NYSERDA Lunch & Learn (100); NAACP Albany Chapter (13); News, Views & Interviews with Aaron Mair (? Audience)

**Some additional notes** –