**Minutes of the board meeting of UREC for March 19, 2024**

Attendance: Board – Steve O’Connor, Paul Stewart, Nancy Delaine, Jennifer Burns, AnnMarie Hess, Matt Kirk, Angelo Maddox, Cecilia Archer-Tucker, Darius Shahinfar, Brenda Twiggs; Staff – Mary Liz Stewart, Lacey Wilson

Matt Kirk called the meeting to order. Matt proposed an agenda change to move the election of new board members to the board to the start of the meeting. The new board members are Cecilia Archer-Tucker, Nancy Delaine and Angelo Maddox was introduced at the last meeting. Matt moved that the three proposed board members be voted in as a slate. Matt asked if there were any objections. All voted in favor.

The new board members were introduced. Cecilia Archer-Tucker lives in the neighborhood on Colonie Street and has known Paul and Maryliz a long time. She has worked in education for many years, as a contractor for NYS OTDA and Medicaid. She has also worked for OMH doing systems implementation. She is currently working with the Research Foundation as an Education Specialist. She is semi-retired. Nancy Delaine is an intellectual property lawyer. She has worked with Paul for many years as a trainer in the Community Loan Fund Small Business Class. Angelo Maddox is a small businessman. He operates a store “Young Fresh and Fly”.

Current board members were introduced. It was proposed to vote on bringing the new board members on as a slate. All were in favor.

Lacey Wilson was introduced. She had also been introduced at the previous meeting. She is a news staff person who is heading the developing Museum Studies Teen Program. She has a master’s degree in history with a concentration in Museum Studies.

Matt moved and Darius seconded to approve the minutes of the December and February Meetings. All approved.

Paul reviewed the financial reports that had been distributed to the board members. These were financial statements and a proposed budget. Nancy moved and Darius seconded to approve the reports and the budget. All approved.

Paul reported on the progress of grants received for the Interpretive Center (hereinafter called IC). We have $4.3 million in hand and are working on a grant for the Environmental Protection Agency that may yield $5 million. We are working with a collaboration of 10 groups to request a $20 million grant that will include $5 million for our effort with the Interpretive Center.

Mary Liz presented the Executive Directors Report – She noted the additional request into the AARPA round 2 program, we have already been awarded $80,000 under AARPA toward the IC. We were denied a grant request through Americana Corner because of our connection with the effort to move the Schuyler statue. We received a National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant. We also have a $15,000 grants through EPF. Maryliz discussed the process for the consolidation of the lots for the IC and the need for the zoning change from Residential Town House to Mixed use/Neighborhood Edge. The YALI program and the training being done with the Schenectady Police Department were highlighted. The April 22 at 2pm ground breaking was noted. April 26 is planned for an Appreciation Tea. Maryliz is revisiting the Tonko, Schumer, Gillibrand appropriations request processes.

A report was delivered on the Fund Development Committee and its work. Under discussion is a fund raiser. Also a second fund raiser with comedy is in development.

The Collections committee has been discussing providing a head stone for Stephen and Harriet Myers with a likely installation date of October to coincide with International Archaeology Day.

Old Business – Matt asked about revisiting the issue of 192 Livingston. At this point we were informed by a real estate agent Sonia Lewis hired that Sonia was looking for $150,000 for her home. We had decided to take no action since the price we had offered for her home was $92,000. There is nothing further to report at this time.

New Business – In our effort to build the IC the City Planning Office has indicated we needed 28 parking spaces for a building of that size. It was explained that we had approached the Church (Metropolitan New Testament Baptist Church to ask of we could get an agreement with them to use spaces they were not using. They said no. Another opportunity presented itself with six lots owned by Janice Parker or controlled by her and owned under the day care she operated. Paul and Mary Liz were appointed to be an exploratory committee on purchase and to report back. Matt moved and Steve seconded for this. All voted in favor.

The conflict of interest issue regarding Paul and an arts grant to be a story teller was deferred to the next meeting. The next meeting will be April 16.

Nancy moved and Brenda seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor.

Minutes by Paul Stewart