

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: Jack Banta, Co-chair; Lydia Martinez, Co-chair; Jose Casco, Council President Thomas McCarthy, Michelle Lyons (6:06 p.m.); Rev. Mary McBride-Lee (6:06 p.m.)

OTHERS: Council Member Denese Taylor-Moye; Council Member Patricia Swain; Council Member Alfredo Castillo; Council Member Robert Halstead; Renu Gupta, Central Grants, Christine Smith, Grants Director; Scott Hughes, Bridgeport City Librarian; Sauda Baraka, Bridgeport Board of Education

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Banta called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. A quorum was present.

158-14 Grant submission: re Connecticut State Library for Upper East Side Public Library Construction located at 2534-2548 East Main Street. (Project #16268)

Ms. Gupta distributed copies of the information on the construction for the Upper East Side Public Library. She said that the City will need to provide matching funds.

Council Member Lyons, Council Member McBride-Lee and Council Member Swain joined the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Mr. Hughes came forward to speak about the library construction. He thanked the Council Members for their approval of the bonding. This is the first application and said that this was a non-competitive grant. The request is to authorize the Mayor to sign the application on behalf of the Library.

Council Member Castillo asked what the difference was in the costs. Mr. Hughes said that the 1 million will off-set the cost of the construction of 2.9 million. He added that the library has been working on refurbishing the existing buildings, which saves money.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked about having a library in the 135th District. Mr. Hughes said that the Library Board was very interested in doing one there. Council Member McBride-Lee asked if she could be notified of the next meeting of the Library Board.

Council Member Casco asked about the details of the finance, which Mr. Hughes reviewed with him.

Council Member Halstead asked about cost of construction. Mr. Hughes said that it was 2.9 million and the grant funding would off-set some of that.

Council Member Halstead asked whether the urban agriculture would be included. Mr. Hughes said that he would be working a group on urban gardening. Council Member Halstead asked if it would be on site. Mr. Hughes said that there was space on site and he would be glad to talk to Council Member Halstead about this. Mr. Hughes added that wherever they could address a food desert, they would.

Council Member Taylor-Moye asked about the timeframe for the grant funding. Mr. Hughes reviewed the details with those who were present.

Council Member Swain applauded Mr. Hughes for repurposing the buildings.

Council Member Castillo asked if Mr. Andre Baker was helping with this project. Mr. Hughes said he was not involved in this particular project. Council Member Castillo suggested that perhaps Mr. Baker could get the library a bit more funding. Council Member L. Martinez said that it was in Rosario's district.

Council Member L. Martinez thanked Mr. Hughes for his work.

Council Member Halstead asked about the one on the east side. Mr. Hughes said that it was on the Lower East Side. Council Member Halstead said that he was happy to hear this.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER L. MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 158-14 GRANT SUBMISSION: RE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY FOR UPPER EAST SIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION LOCATED AT 2534-2548 EAST MAIN STREET. (PROJECT #16268).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASCO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
ECD&E Committee
Special Meeting
September 21, 2015