



# City of Racine

City Hall  
730 Washington Ave.  
Racine, WI 53403  
[www.cityofracine.org](http://www.cityofracine.org)

## Meeting Minutes - Final Community Development Committee

*Mayor Thomas Friedel, Chairman*  
*Director of City Development Brian O'Connell*  
*Director of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Donnie Snow*  
*Public Health Administrator, Janelle Grammer, Alderman Q.A. Shakoor, II, Alderman*  
*Gregory Holding, Alderman David L. Maack, Alderman Sandy Weidner, Alderman Aron*  
*Wisneski, Ken Lumpkin, Lee Martinez, Carol Wallace, Betty Larsen, Sammy Rangel, Debby*  
*Embry, Alderman James Spangenberg*

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Thursday, April 2, 2009

6:00 PM

City Hall, Room 205

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**Chairman Thomas Friedel called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** 14 - Sandy Weidner, Q.A. Shakoor, II, Brian O'Connell, Gregory Holding, Aron Wisneski, David L. Maack, Ken Lumpkin, Donnie Snow, Lee Martinez, Janelle Grammer, Betty Larsen, Thomas Friedel, Debby Embry and James T. Spangenberg

**EXCUSED:** 2 - Carol Wallace and Sammy Rangel

### **Approval of Minutes for the December 10, 2008 Meeting.**

A motion was made by Ald. Shakoor, seconded by Ald. Weidner, to approve the December 10, 2008 meeting minutes, as distributed. The motion carried on a voice Vote.

09-3345

**Subject:** (Direct Referral) Allocation of 2009 HOME Housing Investment Partnership Grant funds. (Res.09-1324)

**Recommendation of the Community Development Committee on 4-2-09:** That the 2009 HOME Housing Investment Partnership grant funds and additional project proceeds be allocated as shown on the attached table.

Further, that the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to execute and submit all necessary documents on the City's behalf to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to secure the City's 2009 HOME funds.

Further, that the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to execute third-party agreements with agencies approved for use of the grant funds and project proceeds.

**Fiscal Note:** A 2009 HOME grant of \$575,000 is anticipated. There are sufficient proceeds for other projects not covered by the 2009 grant.

**Attachments:** [2009 HOME Recommendation](#)  
[Recommended 2009 HOME Grant Allocation](#)

*Assistant City Development Director Joe Heck reviewed the staff's proposed allocations and answered questions about the proposed allocation and the HOME program.*

**A motion was made by Ald. Maack, seconded by Donnie Snow, that this item be Recommended for Approval as outlined in the Recommendation. The motion carried on a Voice Vote.**

**09-3205**

**Subject:** Request of Project New Life for Local Option funding for a summer youth employment program. (Res.09-1325)

**Recommendation of the Community Development Committee on 4-2-09:** That up to \$30,000 be allocated from the Local Option Fund to Project New Life for the Racine Summer Youth Internship Program.

**Fiscal Note:** There are sufficient funds in the Local Option Fund for this request.

**Attachments:** [Project New Life Local Option Funding](#)

*Jakima Porter, Project New Life, reviewed the organization's application, stating that the requested funds will pay the salaries of up to 20 interns for 10-week summer internships. Elliot Cohen, Project New Life, stated that fifteen private- and public-sector employers have agreed to provide internships if funding is approved. He said interns will be recruited from Census Tracts One through Five, where Racine's unemployment is the highest. He said the grant funds provide an incentive to employers to participate and that he hoped in future years to have employers pay a larger share of the interns' salaries.*

*Ms. Porter said the positions will be advertised in local media, including Project New Life's website. She added that candidates will be screened by the program coordinator, but that the employers themselves will select the intern(s) they will hire. She said grades and previous community involvement will be important factors in screening candidates for the program.*

*Mr. Cohen said Project New Life adopted the concept of a summer youth internship program from a similar effort in Milwaukee. He said full funding of Project New Life's request would allow hiring of 20 interns while a reduction would reduce the number of interns.*

**A motion was made by Ald. Wisneski, seconded by Ald. Shakoor, to allocate up to \$30,000 from the Local Option Fund to Project New Life for a summer youth internship program provided that program participants be recruited from low and moderate income households throughout the City of Racine.**

**The vote was as follows:**

**Ayes (12): O'Connell; Snow; Grammer; Shakoor; Wisneski; Holding; Maack; Weidner; Lumpkin; Martinez; Embry; Spangenberg**

**Nays (1): Larsen**

**The motion carried.**

**09-3300**

**Subject:** Request by United Way of Racine for Local Option funds for

the Advancing Family Assets (AFA) program. (Res.09-1326)

**Recommendation of the Community Development Committee on 4-2-09:** That up to \$19,000 be allocated from the Local Option Fund to United Way of Racine County for the Advancing Family Assets initiative.

**Fiscal Note:** There are sufficient funds in the Local Option Fund for this request.

**Attachments:** [United Way Local Option Funding Request](#)

*Dave Maurer, United Way of Racine County, reviewed his organization's funding request and explained the concept of the Advancing Family Assets (AFA) initiative and its relationship to the Higher Expectations workforce development plan. He said AFA hopes to serve up to 50 families each year.*

**A motion was made by Ald. Shakoor, seconded by Ald. Holding, to allocate up to \$19,000 from the Local Option Fund to United Way of Racine County for the Advancing Family Assets initiative. The motion carried on a Voice Vote.**

*Mr. Lumpkin left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.*

**09-3332**

**Subject:** Request from Project New Life for Local Option Funding to provide transportation for Racine employees working at Six Flags Great America.

**Recommendation of the Community Development Committee on 4-2-09:** That the item be received and filed.

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

**Attachments:** [Project New Life LOF Request for Six Flags Transportation](#)  
[Project New Life Transportation LOF Application](#)

*Tessa Brown, Project New Life, reviewed the organization's request for funds to purchase a van saying that they hope the program will provide summer employment and life skills training.*

*Elliot Cohen, Project New Life, said that, if approved, his organization plans to use the van not solely for transporting workers to Great America this summer, but to other job sites as well. He said several Racine people have already been hired at Great America with another ten or eleven possible hires for the season. He said Project New Life plans two round trips each day to coincide with Great America's shift changes. He added that riders will be charged \$15 per week to ride the van. Ald. Weidner and Ald. Shakoor suggested deferring action on the request until Item 09-3341 was discussed.*

*Following that discussion (see below), Mr. Cohen withdrew his request.*

**A motion was made by Ald. Maack, seconded by Ald. Holding, that this item be Received and Filed. The motion carried on a Voice Vote.**

**09-3341**

**Subject:** Request from the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department to apply for Local Option Funding to establish a youth

jobs training initiative with Six Flags Great America. (Res.09-1327)

**Recommendation of the Community Development Committee on 4-2-09:** That up to \$28,000 be allocated from the Local Option Fund to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department to provide transportation and jobs skills services.

**Fiscal Note:** There are sufficient funds in the Local Option Fund for this request.

**Attachments:** [Parks, Recs & Cultural Services LOF Application](#)

*Donnie Snow, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, reviewed his department's request to pay part of the costs of chartering two buses to transport workers to Great America daily between Memorial Day and Labor Day. He said he expects to transport up to 100 people per day and offered to transport people associated with Project New Life as well as other Racine residents. He said riders will be charged \$15 per week.*

*Elliot Cohen, Project New Life, said he is willing to work with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department and withdrew his funding request (see above).*

**A motion was made by Ald. Maack, seconded by Ald. Shakoor, to allocate up to \$28,000 to the Racine Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department to lease school buses to provide transportation to Great America for summer employees.**

*Ald. Weidner asked if allocating the funding isn't indirectly subsidizing Great America since in prior years Great America has provided transportation to Racine residents working at Great America.*

**The motion carried on a voice vote.**

*Ald. Wisneski left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.*

**09-3377**

**Subject:** (Direct Referral) Request of River Alliance of Wisconsin for local option funds for the implementation of the Root River Revitalization Plan. (Res.09-1328)

**Recommendation of the Community Development Committee on 4-2-09:** That up to \$15,000 be allocated from the Local Option Fund to the River Alliance of Wisconsin to develop an implementation policy for the recommendations presented in the Back to the Root waterfront redevelopment plan.

**Fiscal Note:** There are sufficient funds in the Local Option Fund for this request.

**Attachments:** [River Alliance LOF Application](#)

*Bonnie Prochaska, representing the River Alliance of Wisconsin, reviewed their funding request and prior experience working on plans to redevelop the land abutting the Root River.*

A motion was made to Ald. Weidner, seconded by Betty Larsen, to allocate up to \$15,000 from the Local Options Fund to the River Alliance of Wisconsin to develop an implementation policy for the recommendations presented in the \_Back to the Root\_ waterfront redevelopment plan. The motion carried on a voice vote.

### **Miscellaneous Business**

*None.*

### **Adjournment**

*There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Joseph Heck  
Assistant Director of City Development*