

**5/14 Memorial Commission  
Minutes for September 18, 2023  
Rich Products, 1 Rich Way, Buffalo NY**

**PRESENT IN PERSON ATTENDANCE**

Mayor Byron W. Brown  
City of Buffalo Deputy Mayor Dr. Callie Johnson  
Pastor Mark Blue, Chairman  
Jonathan Dandes, Corporate Vice President of Government Relations, and Special Projects Rich Products  
Dr. Amitra Wall, Associate Provost Buffalo State University  
Mo Sumbundu, NYS Governor Kathy Hochul Liaison  
Dr. Norman Lewin, Buffalo Arts Commission  
Steve Carmina, President of Carmina Wood Design  
Julia Bottoms, Artist  
Thomas Beauford Jr., CEO Buffalo Urban League

**VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE**

Diane Colgan, Senior Vice President, Tops Friendly Markets

**HOSTS:** Angelica Morrison Communications and Community Relations Assistant Manager City of Buffalo Mayor Byron W. Brown

**Opening Remarks** – Chairman Reverend Blue starts introductions.

**Special Presentation – Jilian Jones, AKG Deputy Director and Eric Jones AKG Project Coordinator**

- The group listened to a special presentation from AKG representatives regarding the design, community engagement and planning process for the newly expanded AKG facility.
- **Jilian Jones** - Stated their process began around 2013 and was a very public process. They started by soliciting input from the community and spent the entire year looking at their motivations and reasons for expanding.
- **Jilian Jones** - Stated the process continued with an RFQ – Request for Qualifications. They asked firms to state their interest in the project, their background, and examples of projects they've done. The applicants were whittled down to ten, then they compiled an RFP after the RFQ. The top five were required to present to an audience of community members. The committee visited all five studios, and then reduced the applicants to just two.
- **Rev. Blue:** "Did you have to pay them?"
- **Jilian Jones Answer:** "We did pay the final five firms. We compensated them for their time. It was \$30,000 that we paid them each of them."
- **Jilian Jones** - Regarding the design process, once the group confirmed an architect, they hosted multiple Town Hall events and invited community members. They discussed topics such as where the building would go and what materials would be used. This process was completed multiple times for different components of the project.

**5/14 Budget Discussion – Update from Thomas Beauford Jr. Buffalo Urban League**

- **Mr. Beauford Jr.** -- Stated some start capital may be available out of the remaining funds from the 5/14 Remembrance Weekend. The chairs of the Remembrance Committee have not come back to him with a final report. The final report will consist of the pledges, the pledges received and the expenses of the event. Beauford says there are several pledges that were not funded and are still outstanding.
- **Mo Sumbundu** - Stated the group needs to figure out how to make donations accessible online.
- **Jonathan Dandes:** Asked about administrative costs and also the possibility of creating a 501c3 to accept donations for the memorial.

- **Mr. Beauford Jr.** – Stated a determination needs to be made as far as how much funding needs to be liquid at any given time. Short-term and long-term needs must be established.

#### **Memorial Discussion**

- The group decided to issue an RRP on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Steve Carmina** – Described the draft version stating the first section is straight forward as far as timing and expectations, there's a brief description of what it's about, including stipends to cover expenses. He says submissions by African American individuals or firms is highly encouraged.

#### **5/14 Survey Discussion**

- Dr. Amitra Wall shared preliminary survey results so far.
- The Survey ends on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Next Meetings**

- October 16<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m., Rich Products