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12	Yonkers Economic Development Committee
13	Board Meeting
14	March 31, 2022
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Minutes

of The City of Yonkers Industrial Development Agency Regular Board of Directors Meeting

March 31, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

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BEFORE:

Mayor Mike Spano - Chairman Peter Kischak - Vice Chairman Melissa Nacerino - Treasurer Marlyn Anderson Secretary Cecile D. Singer - Member

IDA STAFF:

Jim Cavanaugh - President/CEO Jaime McGill - Executive Director Siby Oommen - Chief Fiscal officer Fiona Khan - Administrative Assistant

OTHERS:

Michael Curti Esq. - Harris Beach PLLC, Transaction Counsel Larry Sykes, Esq. - IDA Counsel Frank Badalato - City of Yonkers Dean Bender - Thompson and Bender Jason Baker - City of Yonkers Ray Wilcox - Yonkers Arts Adam Schultz - Yonkers Arts Sara Brody - Yonkers Downtown BID

1	JAIME MCGILL: Okay, so we have what we
2	need to get started. So, Mayor, if you want to
3	open the meeting, we can start with the rollcall.
4	MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Okay, let's open the
5	meeting.
6	SIBY OOMMEN: Mayor Spano.
7	MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Here.
8	SIBY OOMMEN: Cecile Singer.
9	CECILE SINGER: Here.
10	SIBY OOMMEN: Marlyn Anderson.
11	MARLYN ANDERSON: Here.
12	SIBY OOMMEN: Melissa Nacerino.
13	MELISSA NACERINO: Here.
14	SIBY OOMMEN: Pete Kischak.
15	PETER KISCHAK: Here.
16	SIBY OOMMEN: Mayor, we have a quorum.
17	MAYOR MIKE SPANO: . Thank you.
18	Everyone should have the minutes of the last
19	meeting available to them. Are there any
20	questions?
21	CECILE SINGER: Motion. I make a
22	motion.
23	MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Cecile has made a
24	motion we accept the minutes. Do we have a
25	second?

1	PETER KISCHAK: I second, Mayor.
2	MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Seconded by Pete.
3	All in favor.
4	AYE RESPONSES: Aye.
5	MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Am I hearing any
6	negatives? Hearing no negatives, the item is
7	passed. Okay, Siby.
8	SIBY OOMMEN: All right. For the
9	months of August through November, we received
10	agency fees of \$344,875. Our cash on hand at the
11	end of November was \$2.94 million dollars.
12	MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Are there any
13	questions? Hearing no questions, does somebody
14	want to make a motion to accept the finances?
15	MARLYN ANDERSON: I'll make a motion.
16	MAYOR MIKE SPANO: All right. Marlyn
17	has made a motion seconded by Pete. All in
18	favor.
19	AYE RESPONSES: Aye.
20	MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Any negatives?
21	Hearing none, the item has passed.
22	JAIME MCGILL: All right. Our next
23	item is the approval of our 2021 audit. So
24	earlier today the YEDC Audit Committee met to
25	accept the submitted annual audit. We have

Cecile Sin	nger,	who	is	the	chai	Lr	of	our	Audit
Committee	here	to	disc	cuss	the	aυ	ıdit	Ξ.	

CECILE SINGER: Yes. I'm very pleased to report that our audit had no material problems and the staff did an exemplary job as usual. And so -- and we recommend to the EDC the approval of the audit. So I submit to you our recommendation for the approval of the audit.

MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Great. Thank you,

Cecile. Are there any questions about the audit?

Hearing no questions, does somebody want to make

a motion we accept the audit?

Pete, seconded by Marlyn. Marlyn, you okay with that? All in favor?

AYE RESPONSES: Aye.

MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Any negatives?

Hearing none, the item has passed. And, again,

thank you to the staff for doing a great job and

Cecile, for your oversight as always.

Next item.

JAIME MCGILL: The next item is the approval of the PAAA 2021 annual report. The annual report summary and the measurements report were in your packet. This is ancillary to the annual audit. It highlights the accomplishments

1	of the YEDC and the assistance of four refinances
2	throughout this year. Once approved today, this,
3	along with budget, will be uploaded to the ABO as
4	required.
5	MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Okay. Thank you.
6	Are there any questions? Hearing no questions,
7	do we want to accept the audit findings?
8	Somebody want to make a motion?
9	MARLYN ANDERSON: I make a motion so
10	moved.
11	MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Marlyn has made a
12	motion, seconded by Pete. All in favor?
13	AYE RESPONSES: Aye.
14	MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Any negatives?
15	Hearing none, the item has passed. Thank you.
16	JAIME MCGILL: Onto resolutions for
17	consideration. Our first item is a resolution to
18	approve the distribution of funds to Yonkers Arts
19	Westchester for a local mural program in the
20	amount of \$20,000. We have Ray Wilcox here from
21	Yonkers Arts Westchester to give a presentation.
22	MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Great. Hello, Ray.
23	RAY WILCOX: Good afternoon, good
24	afternoon, everyone. First of all,
25	congratulations to you, Mayor Mike Spano. I mean

I watched the State of the City last night and it was just an amazing job. So congratulations to you and everything that you've been doing.

Thank you, Fiona, thank you Jim and Jaime for allowing us to speak on this call. I'm going to have Adam Schultz actually on the call with myself. And I'm just going to take you guys through a quick presentation of some of the things that we're looking to actually launch in a partnership with you guys. Give me one second, pull this up. Sorry. Okay. I just want to bring it up here so you guys to see. I'm going to just use.

So hi. So, again, a partnership with Yonkers Arts. So first off, Yonkers Arts. I am the executive director of Yonkers Arts. Adam Schultz is our Board President. And our core mission is to develop a strong and effective cooperative network of artists, cultural organizations, and members of the community to promote and encourage the arts in the city of Yonkers.

But one of the more important things in our vision really is to see how we could enhance the living experiences of Yonkers through the

beautification of Yonkers, specifically, downtown Yonkers to start.

that we have programs in order to sustain and maintain these particular programs as well. So we've -- I've been working alongside Sarah Brody, who's actually on the call here. She can attest to my relentless approach to really attacking the MTA about this point to see how we can really engage and activate these walls because I live downtown Yonkers and I take walks all the time and they are an eyesore.

And right here, I mean just to kind of show you guys right here. This is a picture I took of the wall right across the street from Dolphin. And I just dropped a few different, just a quick sample of what we could do in regards to just a mural in that particular section of that wall.

But my idea really is to see how we can incorporate a program to sustain that entire land or that stretch of wall for the MTA and maybe even in different areas in downtown and work with the downtown BID to kick off the program.

But then to see how we could elevate

the program and to enhance our reach into
Yonkers, we also have strong relationship with
Justin Gordon from the South Broadway BID. And
I've been approached from Corazon Pineda to see
how we got activate some on walls in that
particular district as well.

So we really want to see how we can kick this off. It would be great to see how this could be an addition to Yonkers Arts Weekend. could be unveiling every year of new art. own mini-mural festival that could bring people I'm a mural hunter. I mean I go out. to us. take pictures. I like to see myself in front of murals. It kind of gives me credibility. the one thing that I do when I go to these murals, I always go to eat. I always go to the businesses around. I'm always exploring. is a way to bring the public to us. It's a way to bring more people to the actual buildings that's down here and it's a way to really be proud of the walls and the area that we live in.

It's something I'm very, very proud of,
I'm passionate about it. I have a
(indiscernible) as well. I have a strong
relationship with YPS, strong relationship with

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- My Brother's Keeper, My Sister's Keeper. So I'm looking to really engage them to see how we could really sustain this without having to rely on Metro North and ancillary type of financial funding sources for this. So that's one of the plans that we have in this particular partnership.
- This is an example of one of the actual renderings that one of the local artists produced. And this is right on the corner of -- this is Hudson street and South Broadway. Right in the corner of Rainbow, this is just a just a rendering, a sample of what we can do.

Again, we have tons of local artists here in Yonkers that want to do work in Yonkers. And again, pointing to this program as a start, it would be revolutionary. It's leaving a legacy. It's leaving an impact, but it's also allowing our local artists to really have their owness and be proud of what they're doing here in Yonkers.

And then finally, it's really being out again. We're located in the Carpet Mills Arts

District. Being inside the Carpet Mills Arts

District and sharing this community with the IDA,

- 1 we realize that there really is no centralized location for like a website that has all-2 3 encompassing information for these buildings. Working with Adam Schultz, my Board President, he 4 5 has a strong relationship with the Owners Coalition of CMAD and working with the Randy 6 7 Roses and George Huangs to see how we can really 8 create some more economic development for those 9 particular properties.
 - So how can we bring in small businesses? How can we bring in more artists? How can bring in restaurants or whatever it is to really make this the Carpet Mills Arts District reminiscent or something similar towards maybe something like the Industry City or like the Navy Yards.

So we want to, we want to really be that conduit to help drive that particular mission in the next couple of years. But starting with this particular partnership, in year one, start small and see how we can build a really stronger relationship going forward over the course of the next couple of years.

MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Okay. Are there any questions for Ray?

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1 PETER KISCHAK: I have a question, 2 Mayor. 3 RAY WILCOX: Sure. 4 PETER KISCHAK: Can you bring back that 5 first mural, please? 6 RAY WILCOX: Absolutely. 7 PETER KISCHAK: So on the left-hand 8 corner of that mural, is that a coyote or a dog? 9 RAY WILCOX: So I'm glad you actually 10 mentioned that because so I really wanted to --11 so these are two of my favorite artists. So 12 Jason Naylor, he's one of the New York City 13 artists. 14 MAYOR MIKE SPANO: So we'll take 15 coyote, right? 16 RAY WILCOX: So I think it's a fox. 17 that's Ilco. Ilco actually did a piece, he has a 18 few pieces here in Yonkers, so I'm pretty sure 19 you guys recognize that design. But he is 20 He does sculptures as well. So if you amazing. 21 are interested in doing some sculptures around 22 the city, he's always a guy we can reach out to 23 as well. 24 PETE KISCHAK: I'm only funning with 25 you Ray.

RAY WILCOX: Listen, I love, I love the fact that you seen that. So again, you're paying attention. I love that. Thank you.

PETE KISCHAK: It's an inside joke.

CECILE SINGER: I have a comment.

Ray, you're amazing. I know from the Community Planning Council, you are always active. You're always thinking. You have the youth program. You are really an asset to the city.

RAY WILCOX: Thank you. Thank you so much.

CECILE SINGER: You've done such wonderful work and you're just terrific. So thank you.

RAY WILCOX: I appreciate your support. I appreciate all you guys' support because I mean without your support, we wouldn't be in this position where we are now. From the headaches to the successes, the impacts that we got going on, it's just the start and I'm super appreciative to even be on this call with you guys.

MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Any other questions for Ray? I will say one of the things I love about you most is you are and continue to be a real positive impact in our community. And, you

know, I want to work with you to even do more. I mean we've talked about the Bronx River Parkway and some of the canvases that we have along that thoroughfare that I think we might be able to work out. I've also had conversations with the Superintendent of Schools because I really think that, you know, in terms of keeping the city clean, like for instance, I want to see if I can get our high school seniors to give me 20, 30, maybe 40 hours of public service a year as part of their graduation and maybe helping you out. Obviously, they can't be the artist.

RAY WILCOX: Absolutely.

MAYOR MIKE SPANO: But we need to paint the canvas and get the canvas ready for the artist.

RAY WILCOX: And that's something that I'm so glad you mentioned because we have a mission. Like by one of my personal missions, honestly, is to see how we could, how can we serve up to 30 internships for these youth here in Yonkers because, as you know, I still have the Power Lab and I still, I still do everything for Yonkers Arts. The amount of work that we got going on, I could use support. So I've already

- 1 engaged (indiscernible) and his family. I've got 2 relationships with WestCOP as well, but I would 3 love to engage and see how that's possible because like I said, I'm very passionate about 4 5 really making an impact for my community for 6 sure, but really engaging the overall communities 7 in just the beautification of Yonkers and the 8 development of an artist. 9 MAYOR MIKE SPANO: You are, you do 10 wonderful work. You have a wonderful mission. 11 You have great, you know, passion in what you do.
- 13 RAY WILCOX: Thank you.

And I just want to say thanks.

- 14 MAYOR MIKE SPANO: And, like I said,
- 15 I'm looking forward to doing some more work with
- 16 you as we move forward. So thanks.
- 17 RAY WILCOX: Thank you, Mr. Mayor,
- 18 | thank you.

- 19 MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Somebody want to
- 20 make a motion?
- PETER KISCHAK: I'll make the motion.
- 22 MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Pete's made a
- 23 motion, seconded by Cecile. All in favor.
- 24 AYE RESPONSES: Aye.
- 25 MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Any negatives? I

- 1 don't hear any. Ray, thank you so much.
- 2 RAY WILCOX: Thank you, guys.
- 3 Appreciate you. Have a great rest of your day.
- 4 MAYOR MIKE SPANO: You too.

JAIME MCGILL: Okay, Mayor, the next item is a resolution authorizing the distribution of funds to the Yonkers Downtown BID for the Independence Day fireworks celebration. We have expanded the show this year to include two locations. The amount of the fireworks is \$156,000, but the request is for up to \$220,000 just to cover any potential cancelation costs that are part of the contract.

MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Okay. Just as an aside, just so everyone knows, we've had a very successful fireworks program going on in the downtown. It's been good for economic development, good for the waterfront. It's not just good just for the day, but it brings upwards of 30 to 40 to 50,000 people down to -- sorry -- down to Yonkers waterfront where they're able to engage and be a part of all the wonderful things that are happening, sending a very strong vibe out to the business community that this is a great place to do business. And, you know, we've

1	had, we've had the fireworks display on one
2	barge. We vacillated the barge up and down the
3	Hudson in order to try to give everybody a little
4	bit of a view. So we've decided that we will
5	actually run two barges and run a pretty robust
6	fireworks that, you know, the people of Yonkers
7	can all enjoy. So that's my little, my little
8	commercial on that one. Are there any questions?
9	All right, hearing no question, can somebody make
10	a motion? Can I hear a motion?
11	PETER KISCHAK: I'll make a motion,
12	Mayor.
13	MAYOR MIKE SPANO: All right. Pete's
14	made a motion, seconded by Cecile. All in favor?
15	AYE RESPONSES: Aye.
16	MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Any negatives?
17	Hearing none, the item is passed. Thank you
18	guys. Jaime, what else do you got?
19	JAIME MCGILL: The final item, Mayor,
20	is a resolution authorizing the distribution of
21	funds to the City of Yonkers for the creation of
22	an Electric Leaf Blower Rebate Program. We do
23	have Jason Baker on the line, who can give more
24	details on the program.

MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Okay, Jason, give us

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JASON BAKER: All right, good
afternoon, everybody. So the California
Protection Environmental Protection Agency has
reported that the bestselling commercial powered
gas leaf blowers emit as much smog-forming
pollution after just one hour of use as driving a
2016 Tovota Camry for about 1100 miles.

Specific environmental and health hazards include hydrocarbon emissions that produce ozone, as well as several known carcinogens. Gas leaf blowers also present quality of life impacts resulting from the high intensity sound levels they produce, which can also pose an increased risk of hearing loss to lawn and garden workers who use them regularly. Gas leaf blowers remain widely used in Yonkers, particularly during fall. Yet even during the period from June to September when gas leaf blower use is prohibited in the city, Yonkers, Code Enforcement still issues approximately 130 tickets on average for violations.

As gas leaf blowers are readily available for purchase at local stores and online, the City seeks to encourage residents and

landscapers to choose a cleaner, quieter electric model by incentivizing their purchase.

So how do we do this? Well, the IDA's support for this project will advance the development of a new electric lawn care equipment program that will enable residents and local landscaping companies to apply for rebates for their electric powered leaf blower purchases.

Rebate amount of \$50 will be made available to residents and property owners and up to five rebates of \$75 for each electric leaf blower purchase will be available to Yonkers-based Landscaping companies, which is a total of \$375.

Applications for rebates will be available for submission on the City of Yonkers website and will require proof of purchase and eligibility.

This consumer friendly approach has been implemented recently in Washington DC, which has banned the use and sale of gas powered leaf blowers. Similar legislation has been proposed in New York State. So the program could serve as a model for other cities to prepare for such action by proactively advancing conversion from gas to electric among their residents and their

L	local	landscaping	companies
_			

In addition to providing a financial incentive, the program could also help boost local sales of electric leaf blowers. It will help raise awareness and it'll improve compliance with our existing seasonal ban on gas leaf blowers in order to further reduce the environmental health and quality of life risks that are associated with gas leaf blower use.

I want to thank the Mayor, Yonkers IDA and the Economic Development Board for considering this proposal and I'm happy to answer any questions.

MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Okay, are there any questions?

MARLYN ANDERSON: Just how are you advertising the program to the city besides the Yonkers website for residents?

JASON BAKER: Sure. We're going to be working with the City's Communication Department, as well as some of our other local partners to help promote the program through our various social media outlets, emails, media and any which way that we can get the message out to our residents and our landscapers. We actually also

- have a -- we do have a list of landscapers who have who are licensed to use the organic yard. So we'll be able to reach them directly and make them aware of the program as well.
- MAYOR MIKE SPANO: And may I make a suggestion to Jason is we do recycling guide every year that goes out to every property owner in the city? You might want to make that a part of the recycling guide agenda or at least part of what we print out.

JASON BAKER: Absolutely, we can definitely do that. Thank you, Mayor.

MAYOR MIKE SPANO: For those of you don't know, I have proposed this yesterday in my State of the City address as something that we wanted to put forward because there is, you know, we do ban leaf blowers in the city during certain portions of the year. There are, you know, we get complaints about leaf blowers on and off. We get complaints about leaf blowers still being used even when there's a local ordinance against it. You know this may make the world a little quieter, give us less complaints and, of course, make the environment a little cleaner put a little more money in our constituents' pockets.

So it's an incentive to help them do something green. That's what I'm hoping we can achieve here. Any questions?

PETER KISCHAK: During this program, is the federal government going to be putting any money towards this?

JASON BAKER: We don't have any federal funding for this program at this time.

MAYOR MIKE SPANO: No, this is strictly pilot, Peter, that we're doing using IDA funds. It's a limited pot of money. We're only going to use what we have, which is that amount that we have allotted. And we're not going to go further than that. And we'll see what happens. We'll see how it works out. If it turns out to be a real positive experience and have a real positive impact, we may go to our federal partners and our state partners and ask them for funding, or we might come back here and talk to the Board again. This is just a pilot project and we will see what happens.

JASON BAKER: And I will add also that there actually is some state funding that we are applying for, not exactly for this program, but to assist in the conversion of from gas to

electric equipment for our Parks Department. So that will be a way for us to show leadership in that, you know, we're doing it on our end. The community can also do it. I know there's been some pushback from landscapers over the years about the switch to electric. So, you know, if we're able to demonstrate our own commercial use, hopefully that will help them make -- take the similar action that we're taking.

MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Okay. Any other questions?

CECILE SINGER: It's a terrific idea.

It's certainly something that's very much of our time and that we need to do. So it's terrific.

MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Yeah, Cecile, you're so right. It's a direction that the world is heading in. At least it starts to get our people, you know, to think about this because if we don't, like I said, it's going to come upon us real, real quick and all of a sudden, everyone's going to be forced into decisions that are kind of placed on us as mandates. And so this is an opportunity for everybody to get the feel of it through a pilot project and see what happens.

With no other questions, does somebody

- 1 want to make a motion? Cecile has made a motion, 2 seconded by Pete. I was hoping it was going to 3 be Pete because there's no more of the gas man than Pete. All in favor? 4 5 AYE RESPONSES: Aye. 6 MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Any negatives? 7 Hearing none, it's passed. Thank you so much. 8 And thank you, Pete. 9 JASON BAKER: Thank you. 10 MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Jaime, what else do 11 you got? 12 JAIME MCGILL: That's it. We have no 13 other listed items, Mayor. 14 MAYOR MIKE SPANO: All right. Any 15 legal items? Nothing? 16 MIKE CURTI: One thing, Mayor, just a 17 reminder to Marlyn, if you could just sign the 18 Warburton Avenue resolution when you receive it 19 today from Fiona. They need it back today so
 - MARLYN ANDERSON: Okay. Say it again.

they can submit it as part of the application.

- MIKE CURTI: Sure. It's the Conifer resolution. Fiona's going to send it to you. If you could sign it and send it back after.
- 25 MARLYN ANDERSON: All right.

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1	JIM CAVANAUGH: Also, Conifer is
2	looking for a letter of support from the Mayor.
3	I've been dealing with Denise Egiziaco on that.
4	Mayor, she may mention it to you today but they
5	need that by five o'clock tonight. Also I
6	believe a scan will do but, but hopefully you can
7	work that out with Denise by end of day.
8	MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Okay. Yeah. We
9	talked about this I think. You're comfortable
10	with it from your point of view?
11	MIKE CURTI: Yeah. It's really just
12	supporting the project that we just induced. So
13	there's nothing inconsistent about you saying I
14	support the project. You just voted for it.
15	MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Gotcha. I thought
16	it was anotherOkay. All right. With
17	that, somebody want to make motion we adjourn?
18	CECILE SINGER: So moved.
19	MAYOR MIKE SPANO: We have a motion to
20	adjourn, seconded by Cecile. All in favor?
21	
22	AYE REPONSES: Aye.
23	MAYOR MIKE SPANO: Any negatives?
24	Hearing none, we're adjourned. Enjoy your
25	weekend, everyone.

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1	JAIME	MCGILL:	Thank	you,		
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1	CERTIFICATION
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3	I, Sonya Ledanski Hyde, certify that the
4	foregoing transcript is a true and accurate
5	record of the proceedings.
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8	Soneya M. Sudanski Hyd-
9	Doneya N. Geodarde Hyde
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11	Veritext Legal Solutions
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