

**Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: September 9, 2019 – 6:30 PM
LOCATION: Howard St. John Business Seminar Room, Clinton Hall SUNY Ulster,
Stone Ridge 12484
PRESIDING OFFICER: Deputy Chair Heidi Haynes
RECORDER: Jamie Capuano, Vice President for Administrative Services, SUNY
Ulster
PRESENT: Legislators Haynes, Donaldson, and Wawro
ABSENT: Chairman Delaune, Legislator Collins
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Jared Buono, Executive Director Cornell Cooperative Extension
Nancy Kanan, Finance/Contract Coordinator Dispute Resolution
Center
Donna Ramlow, Executive Director Dispute Resolution Center
Margaret Menard – Mid-Hudson Library Association
Casey Conlin, Mid-Hudson Ulster Library Association
Stuart Auchincloss, Mid-Hudson Libraries Association
Lia Perez, Arts Mid- Hudson
Linda Marston-Reid, Executive Director Arts Mid-Hudson
Susan Koppenhaver, Director Ulster County Office for the Aging
Chris Silva, Executive Director UPAC/Bardavon

Deputy Chair Haynes called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

Motion No. 1: Moved to Approve the Minutes of the August 12, 2019 meeting

Motion By: Legislator Donaldson
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Wawro

Discussion:
None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Haynes, Donaldson, and Wawro
Voting Against: 0
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes approved

Deputy Chair Heidi Haynes asked Jamie Capuano, Vice President for Administrative Services at SUNY Ulster to provide an update on the College. Vice President Capuano stated that the college

is off a good start this fall and indicated that enrollment is coming in close to what the College estimated as part of the budget process. This estimate reflects a reduction in enrollment of approximately 3.5 percent. She also summarized the classroom renovation projects and other capital projects on campus that are underway or completed.

Deputy Chair Haynes then asked Jared Buono, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County to present Cornell's budget request. Mr. Buono thanked the Legislature for their continued support in previous years and respectfully requested a three percent cost of living adjustment to fund a part time educator. Mr. Buono went on to highlight the work that Ulster County has done to become an environmental leader; including the plastic bag ban and the County's continued work with water management plans. He said that for every \$1.00 raised, Cornell can leverage \$11.00. He summarized additional areas of interest that Cornell is focusing on, including work with a variety of different grains, working with the hemp industry, the Healthy Ulster County program and one-on-one nutrition and budgeting classes. Cornell has also entered into a five year contract with the Department of Environmental Planning focused on watershed programs. Legislator Donaldson stated that Cornell's request is basically the same request as last year for the same program and indicated that Cornell's work cannot expand outside the watershed. He indicated that last year's request was ultimately not included in the County budget. Legislator Haynes said she was pleased with the work that Cornell is doing to educate the community and supports the request for funding for an part time educator.

Margaret Menard, Director of the Library Association thanked the Ulster County legislator for their continued support to libraries. Ms. Menard summarized the Association's 2020 budget request and indicated that they are requesting support for the information portal and online digital portal that can be accessed throughout the County. She summarized the work that the Association has been doing to support more e-audio books, streaming videos and providing access to these resources for everyone regardless of their home library. She went on to explain that the cost for digital streaming videos has expanded and indicated that the community has been using them extensively. Stuart A. from Woodstock said that when he was recovering from an injury he accessed the digital resources extensively and that he was so pleased that our County had this resources available. He said that he read e-books and could even adjust the size of the print so it made it easier for him to read on his device. Ms. Menard also summarized the resources available through the Library's Canopy subscription and indicated that they have been working with local municipalities to show movies to the public because this program comes with performance rights to the movies that are available. Casey Conlin (enter title) said that local libraries can also provide an outlet for families looking for activities for their children and that many families participate in story times, weekly meet ups and that the libraries offer an outlet for children to read and for families to reconnect. He went on to say that the digital catalog of books, videos and streaming software creates an opportunity for libraries to offer more resources than they could ever offer within their physical locations. Legislator Donaldson stated that he had used the library resources for western civilization and other courses that he taught over the years and that he found these resources very helpful and interesting.

Linda Marston-Reid, Executive Director Arts Mid-Hudson thanked the Legislator for their funding over the years for Arts Mid-Hudson and she walked through some of the programs that Arts Mid-Hudson has been able to support over the years, including funding for open studio events, furniture makers, musicians and others. She explained that they also offer budgeting classes and grant writing classes and are really there to address the needs of the artist community throughout Ulster County.

Legislator Donaldson summarized Arts Mid-Hudson's 2020 budget request as an increase of \$3,500 to support an arts education coordinator and that this position will help bring groups together and reduce some of the overlap. Linda explained that this position would help bring the volunteers together and help organize the applications for funding that the group receives. She also explained that this position would focus on marketing and help with arts engagement throughout the County. Legislator Donaldson asked how Arts Mid-Hudson gets volunteers. Linda explained that it is a public nomination process and that the team will identify potential volunteers through their work with local artists. Legislator Haynes stated that she would like to see more art projects reach into her community.

Donna Ramlow, Executive Director for the Dispute Resolution Center explained the CASA program that provides a court appointed special advocate to assist families with navigating the family court process. She explained that the volunteers monitor everything with the family and will advocate for permanency for the child. Legislator Donaldson stated that the DRC and the CASA program save the County a lot of money. Legislator Haynes asked how many volunteers are currently working with families and how many families are being served. Donna explained that they have eight volunteers and that they are currently serving 32 families in Ulster County.

Chris Silva, Executive Director of UPAC/Bardavon thanked the Legislature for their continued support over the years. He indicated that the theater serves about 20,000 children every year. He stated that they've undergone massive renovations to preserve the historic building and to provide year round programming to the community. He indicated that the County's support goes directly to pay the utilities bills for the theater.

Susan Koppenhaver, Director for the Ulster County Office for the Aging introduced herself and said that she is very happy to become part of the team. She previously worked for Always There in Dutchess County and that she has the opportunity to work with UPAC, the Arts Center and the Dispute Resolution Center. She provided the committee with a summary of her background, including her work with Daytop Village and her background in health care administration.

Resolutions for September 9, 2019, Session:

Resolution No. 387 – Resolution No. 387 - Approving The Execution Of A Work Order With The Dormitory Authority Of The State Of New York (DASNY) To Provide Design And Construction Management Services Related To Capital Project No. 486 – Window Replacement Project – Amending Capital Project No. 486 – Window Replacement Project For Jacob Hardenbergh Hall – Amending The Capital Fund Budget – SUNY Ulster

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves a work order for the window replacement project for Hardenbergh Hall located on the SUNY Ulster Campus.

Motion No. 2 **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 387**

Motion By: Legislator Donaldson

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Wawro

Discussion:

Vice President for Administrative Services at SUNY Ulster summarized the window replacement plan and indicated that this will replace the classroom windows in Hardenbergh Hall and will also contain some hazardous material abatement.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Haynes, Donaldson, and Wawro
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution adopted

Old Business – None

New Business- The Committee discussed the budget requests. The Committee supported the budget requests for the Libraries Association and indicated that they were pleased with the resources that the Libraries are providing. The Committee supported the CASA budget request – highlighting that they were not requesting an increase. The Committee recommended that the UPAC funding be used for programming, not to support the utility bills. The Committee felt that this was a better use of County resources and could expand programming opportunities to area residents. The Committee was supportive of the funding request for Arts Mid-Hudson and indicated that they provide a major source of arts funding for Ulster County. Legislator Haynes indicated that she would like to see more arts programming in her rural community. The Committee indicated that they would like to see Arts Mid-Hudson award more arts grants and try to use the funding for capacity building. The Committee indicated that they would advance the Cornell Cooperative’s funding request, but would like to get more information on that request as it advances through the funding process.

Deputy Chair Haynes asked if there was any other business, and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Donaldson
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Wawro
No. of Votes in Favor: 3
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 7:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Jamie Capuano, Vice President for Administrative Services, SUNY Ulster
Minutes Approved: October 7, 2019