

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP FOUNDATION  
JANUARY 11, 2018

The Upper Merion Township Foundation met for its reorganization meeting on Thursday, January 11, 2018 in the Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m., followed by a pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Waks, Greg Philips, Carole Kenney, and Bill Jenaway. Others present were: Dave Kraynik, Township Manager, and Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager. Supervisor Spott was absent.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Jenaway stated the By-laws of the Foundation indicate the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors shall be the chair of this Foundation and Mr. Philips is thereby appointed Chairman of the Upper Merion Township Foundation.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY

It was moved by Mr. Waks, seconded by Mr. Jenaway, to appoint Mr. Vince O'Grady as Vice Chair of the Foundation and Laurel Dasher as Secretary. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

UMT EMPLOYEE SCHOLARSHIP FUND REQUEST

Angela Caramenico discussed the background for the Employee Scholarship Fund which has been in existence for many years and made possible by an anonymous donor. Since this donation is no longer available, two members of the scholarship committee, Jim Ruddy and Ron Wagenmann, are requesting the Foundation grant \$5,000 to keep the scholarship fund solvent.

Mr. Waks asked how much is currently in the Township Foundation coffers. Mr. Kraynik responded there is approximately \$30,000 which was remaining from the Tricentennial and has not been earmarked in any other way at this point.

Foundation Action:

It was moved by Mrs. Kenney, seconded by Mr. Jenaway, all voting "Aye" to approve the transfer of \$5,000 to the Upper Merion Township Scholarship Fund. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

## PRESENTATION BY JENN LYONS COMMUNITY CENTER MEMBERSHIPS

Jenn Lyons, Chairperson, Economic and Community Development Committee (ECDC), stated last year the Board of Supervisors asked the ECDC to come up with ideas on how funds could be constructively spent for the betterment of the township. At that time, it was suggested finding a way to offset community center memberships for financially disadvantaged families.

As a result of research and inquiries, it was determined there are social workers in the school district who collect and distribute "gift cards" to families in need and a similar process could be used in making community center memberships available to these already identified families. Ms. Lyons proposed setting aside some funds to pay for memberships for families who would be selected according to need.

Mrs. Kenney asked about the confidentiality of the school district in such matters. A discussion followed during which it was determined the school district has strong legal protections to assure confidentiality. Also discussed were ways to secure the information of those who would benefit from the subsidized community center membership as well as the types of activities that would be available for families receiving these "scholarships."

Dan Russell, Director, Park and Recreation, made the point that the process involved would be no different than is done with the camps. He said Park and Recreation receives requests from guidance counselors for families who would benefit from such camp "scholarships/gift certificates." Mr. Russell recommended the gift certificate that is provided the family for a one year membership be submitted to Glenn Anne Chabala so that the request would be going through one person.

Mr. Philips suggested providing the family with a certificate indicating a one year membership and have them activated and already in the system so that it does not need to be submitted to Ms. Chabala. A limit would have to be placed on the number of families and the bill for these certificates would then come directly to the Foundation.

In order to protect confidentiality, Mr. Waks suggested communication between the school district and township should be by phone.

After a discussion about the amount of funding to provide for the community center scholarships, it was decided the initial amount should be \$7,000.00.

### Foundation Action:

It was moved by Mr. Waks, seconded by Mr. Jenaway, all voting "Aye to expend \$7,000 for a trial program for memberships at community center for needy families. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

Mr. Jenaway commented he is assuming the focus would first be on Upper Merion resident families versus other parts of the school district. Ms. Lyons indicated she would reiterate this message to the school district.

Mr. Philips asked Ms. Slook to work with the school district and Mr. Russell to figure out process.

### FUNDRAISING IDEA DISCUSSION

Mr. Waks initiated a discussion regarding a funding commitment made in connection with the new medical marijuana dispensary for a percentage of sales that would be donated to the Township Foundation. It was noted the dispensary is anticipated to open in mid-February with product available by April.

Another fundraising idea mentioned was a "Bar Crawl" during which the pros and cons of such an event were discussed as well as associated RAMP laws.

Ms. Slook mentioned Laurel Dasher indicated she is willing to spearhead any fundraising events that are proposed.

A discussion followed about fundraising events in the past that have proved successful such as percentage of sales from restaurants and the kind of event that should not be pursued again.

Mr. Russell noted the new brewery coming into the township has already signed up for this year's concert series.

Mrs. Kenney suggested having a "Turkey Trot" – a long-distance footrace that is held on or around Thanksgiving Day.

Mr. Philips recommended setting a funding goal for the Township Foundation to work toward.

Mr. Kraynik suggested having the Foundation submit an application before the March 15<sup>th</sup> deadline to the Board of Community Assistance (BCA) for the community center memberships for underprivileged residents.

Ms. Slook suggested also having the school district apply for a BCA grant.

Mr. Philips asked about the procedure if a citizen wants to donate to the Foundation. Ms. Slook responded they send in a check to her attention, payable to the Upper Merion Foundation. All donors will receive acknowledgment letters as a receipt for a charitable contribution. These instructions are on the township website.

Using the Combined Federal Campaign as an example, Mr. Philips suggested having something similar for the Township Foundation capital campaign, possibly with a

thermometer indicated a certain dollar figure goal this year with donations made through PayPal or electronically.

Mrs. Kenney asked if Amazon Smile is still being used. Ms. Slook responded in the affirmative. Mrs. Kenney commented more publicity should be done.

Mr. Philips asked how many Upper Merion Township employees donate directly to the Foundation. Ms. Slook responded, "none." Mr. Philips said we need to change the philosophy.

Mr. Philips asked why there is a separate scholarship fund [for employees]. Mr. Kraynik responded the employee scholarship fund was funded by the Powell Foundation and these funds are no longer available.

Mr. Philips asked who makes the decisions for the employee scholarships. Mr. Kraynik responded it is currently Jim Ruddy and Ron Wagenmann.

Mr. Philips commented if scholarships become part of the Foundation then the township employees would be more willing to give to the Foundation.

Mr. Waks provided reasoning for having the BCA select scholarships.

Mr. Philips stated the Foundation Board needs to come up with a dollar figure for a goal and the capital campaign needs to be promoted with all available township media. Ms. Slook said she would work with the Chief Public Information Officer and her team to come up with a publicity campaign.

Mr. Kraynik asked if the Foundation Board wants to authorize staff to complete a BCA application. Mr. Philips responded in the affirmative.

#### Foundation Action:


It was moved by Mr. Jenaway, seconded by Mrs. Kenney, all voting "Aye" to prepare a BCA application for the Employee Scholarship Fund to present to the BCA. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

#### MEETING DATES FOR 2018

A discussion followed regarding the timing of the next Foundation meeting and it was decided to meet in February and a proposed meeting schedule will be emailed to the Foundation.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Mr. Jenaway, seconded by Mr. Waks, all voting "Aye" to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

  
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GREG PHILIPS  
CHAIRMAN

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Minutes Approved: 3/22/18

Minutes Entered: 3/23/18