

UPPER MERION BOARD OF COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE
APRIL 4, 2019

The Board of Community Assistance of Upper Merion Township met for its Regular Meeting on Thursday, April 4, 2019 in the Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm followed by a Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present were: Brett Montich, Chairperson, Lydia Dan-Sardiñas, Vice Chairperson; David Zerfing, Valley Forge Casino Resort Representative; Gina Mancino, Valley Forge Casino Representative; David Karen, BCA Member, Greg Waks, Board of Supervisors Liaison and Cathynn Dolan, Executive Secretary to Township Manager.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

It was moved by Mr. Karen, seconded by Mrs. Dan-Sardiñas, all voting "Aye" to approve the February 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion to approve the meeting minutes passed 5-0.

Review of Applications:

Mr. Zerfing noted that funds already collected from Valley Forge Casino would be in the \$150,000-\$155,000 range for grant distribution, but that next year it will be increased to somewhere in the \$190,000-\$195,000 range due to the increase in slot machines as per the agreement with the township. He explained that the extra slot machines come in the fourth quarter, so that the first increase will be in April next year.

Mr. Waks stated that he had to leave early to attend the Board of Supervisors Workshop. He noted however that there were about 20% fewer applications than last year.

Before Mr. Waks had to leave, a discussion ensued about the request regarding the Arboretum and whether or not this was a township priority. Mr. Waks advised that the Moore Irwin House has been a township/citizen board issue for several years. He continued that the Board is definitely interested in fixing the Arboretum there, but that the broader issue is the future use on how to use the house. He noted that Arboretum and the House are not necessarily tied together even though they are on the same parcel. Mrs. Dan-Sardiñas suggested that the BCA speak to Tina Garzillo, the Board liaison to the ECDC, as she could shed more light on the issue

Review of Applications

As a first step in the application review, it was agreed to start the discussion with a review of the organization applicant list, followed by the sports list. Mr. Montich would keep a tally of the dollars awarded on the first round, and then the Board could go back and revisit before making their final determination.

A discussion then ensued about Heuser Park and the request for Invasive Plant Mitigation and whether or not the Township should budget for this project.

There was also some discussion about the Martin Luther King Jr. application. Mr. Montich noted he spoke with Ms. Seymour to get better insight of the proposed project. The Board all agreed that it is an excellent event but that there should be a stipulation that the BCA should be given some credit in their programming.

Discussions also ensued about applications from Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company, Upper Merion Police Department and the KOP Firefighters Association. Mr. Jenaway was asked to step in and shed some light on the above. The Board also requested to speak to Chief Nolan to get some additional information on these matters.

Mr. Zerfing noted that he had to leave for another commitment. After some additional discussions, the Board took a brief recess.

Mr. Waks returned to the meeting for a few minutes and Mr. Montich gave him an update on what was being proposed up to that point.

Application Review Process Continued

After the brief recess, the Board continued with their review of the organization applications. Mr. Montich recused himself from the discussion concerning an application from Good Shepherd.

Chief Nolan stopped in to the BCA meeting while on his way to another meeting. The Board discussed the application from the Police Department regarding new bikes. Chief Nolan advised that this item got cut from the capital budget.

The Board then asked Chief Nolan about KOP VFC request for radio upgrades, and Chief Nolan advised that it would greatly help if the radios were integrated. He continued that career staff is using the KOP trucks during the day, so it would also help if they could use the radios.

With regard to the BCA's question concerning Swedesburg's request for upgrade to the bunkhouse, it was Chief Nolan's opinion that they get an allocation from the Township for something like that.

It was Mr. Karen's opinion that future requests for police/fire should be township requests.

With regard to the discussion concerning the EAC's grant request, it was agreed that they should be encouraged to produce a better grant application especially with reference to state environmental issues.

Other matters discussed included giving an extra \$2,000 to UMASD Social Work to provide snacks for schools.

Mr. Montich recused himself from discussion on the application from the Boy Scouts.

The BCA then discussed the application for the Moore house, and all concurred that there be a stipulation/condition that the project should be in conjunction with the township's project.

The Board then reviewed the Sports Applications.

The Board discussed the Soccer Club and noted that monies granted conditionally last year can now be released since they submitted a plan as requested.

Mr. Montich once again recused himself and this was for discussion regarding the Lacrosse Club's application. The Board concurred that it be noted that the Club purchase better quality goals.

At the conclusion of the organization and sports applications, the Board briefly discussed some of the scholarship applications, noting that one is not eligible due to their residence being outside of the township. Mr. Montich also requested that two addresses in Wayne be verified as being in Upper Merion. He then noted that all of the scholarship applications will be reviewed thoroughly at the next BCA meeting which is on 4/11/19, at 5:30 pm. Mr. Montich also asked the Board to review all of the proposed numbers for the organizations and sports and they could be revisited at the next meeting.

The Board concurred that if no further review is needed after their April 11th meeting, the goal is to make award recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on April 25, 2019.

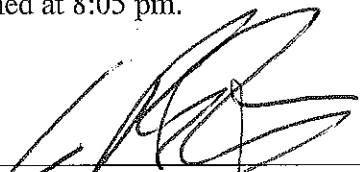
Upcoming Meetings:

The Board reviewed and discussed the below list of upcoming meeting dates:

- 4/11- 5:30 pm – BCA meeting to review applications (Full BCA to attend)
- 4/11- 8:00 pm – Joint Meeting with Board of Supervisors (Full BCA; Chairman to give update to Board - powerpoint)
- 4/25 -7:30 pm – Award Recommendations to Board of Supervisors (Lydia to do presentation)
- 6/5 - 5:30 pm - Awards Reception at VFC

Adjournment.

It was moved by Mr. Karen, seconded by Mrs. Dan-Sardiñas, all voting "Aye" to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 4-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.



Brett Montich, Chairperson
Board of Community Assistance

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Minutes Approved:
Minutes Entered: