

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE  
JUNE 17, 2013

The Board of Community Assistance of Upper Merion Township met for its regular meeting on Monday, June 17, 2013, in the Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m., followed by a pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present were: Greg Waks, Board Liaison, David Kraynik, Township Manager; Judith A. Vicchio, Assistant Township Manager; Lydia Dan Sardinias, Chairperson; Robyn Briggs, Member; Mike Bowman, President and CEO, Valley Forge Casino Resort (VFCR). Ira Lubert, VFCR, and Scott Milner were absent.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

It was moved by Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Mr. Bowman, all voting "Aye" to approve the May 8, 2013 Meeting Minutes as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

SKATEBOARD PARK APPLICATION

Mrs. Dan Sardinias asked about the status of plans for the Skateboard Park. Mr. Les Glauner, Chairman of the Upper Merion Skate Park Committee, responded there is a basic design they are considering, but there is no finalized design at this point in time. They have been looking at the elevations on the proposed site and how it would be aesthetically pleasing and blend in with the Township park.

Mrs. Briggs asked where the Skateboard Park would be located. Mr. Glauner described the location down from the white house in the grassy area just behind the police parking.

Dan Russell, Parks and Recreation Director said it is important to note for the past two years, multiple meetings have been held with the youth in the community to meet with the Skate Park Committee and Park and Recreation staff to provide their suggestions and comments on what they envision as part of the design. The Skate Park Committee has implemented their suggestions into the basis for this design. The youth will take ownership of the park and it will be theirs to maintain and enjoy for years to come.

Mrs. Briggs asked if there will be a fence around the skateboard park. Mr. Russell responded in the affirmative.

Mrs. Briggs asked about access to the park. Mr. Russell responded the park maintenance or park and recreation department will be responsible for locking and unlocking the park on a daily basis. Mrs. Briggs asked if the park would be closed at night. Mr. Russell responded the park will be closed at night and unlit. He pointed out if the kids do not follow rules, for example, wearing their helmets, the park could be locked up for an extended period of time and they will be reminded once they adhere to the rules, the park would reopen at a certain time.

Mrs. Briggs asked if there will be camera surveillance. Mr. Glauner responded as part of the back garage area where the police cars enter and exit there is a camera that could be utilized for dispatchers to rotate the camera.

Mrs. Briggs asked how the \$20,000 request would be utilized for the next year. Mr. Russell responded the \$20,000 would be utilized for engineering plans.

Mrs. Briggs asked what would be available for beginner skaters. Mr. Glauner responded the design they are looking at is called "street style" which is small ramps, steps, some rails, and some "boxes" so it would be for both advanced and beginners and all age groups. Mr. Glauner noted the older kids will teach the younger ones. Mr. Russell commented from a programming standpoint there could be some clinics, camps, and instructional based activities for the kids.

Mrs. Briggs asked if the \$20,000 could go toward the initial costs and asked how much that would be. Mr. Glauner responded between \$7,000 and \$9,000. Mr. Kraynik commented "soft costs" for engineering is usually about 10% of the total construction price. Mr. Russell indicated originally it was around \$125,000 and has been scaled back to more of a street park and it is now closer to \$100,000. Mr. Bowman asked how much has been raised so far. Mr. Russell responded approximately \$37,000.

Mr. Waks asked about "in kind" donations. Mr. Glauner responded the largest "in kind" donation is for all the excavation pre-construction which would be about \$25,000 or \$30,000.

Mrs. Briggs asked about other fundraising plans. Mr. Glauner responded they will have a couple of summer car washes and are still working on ideas. He pointed out it is difficult to "nail down" a big money fundraiser for this type of activity. Currently there are brick sales for a brick path to the park which is doing well with almost \$1,200 raised so far. With the different projects and events currently ongoing in the township, they are looking to "ramp things up" the end of this year and the beginning of next year with some dinners, pancake breakfasts, spaghetti dinners.

## DISCUSSIONS - REVIEW OF FUNDING APPLICATIONS

The following funding applications were reviewed and discussed.

1. Upper Merion Viking Youth Football Cheer (King of Prussia Football Association) – *Mr. Bowman suggested George Nikolaou come before the BCA at the next meeting for a 5-minute presentation*
2. UMBA Baseball Association (roofs for their dugouts and a field dragger) -

Before resuming discussions on the applications, Mrs. Dan Sardinas noted the number of sports organizations requesting funding. She asked about having a cap on how much is given to certain categories such as sports, scholarships and charities. A discussion followed about the cap idea and an idea to use an incentive for the applicant to raise a certain amount to supplement the grant.

Mr. Kraynik commented once the BCA begins expending money, the Finance Department will provide the BCA with a financial report so that members will always know what is on hand at various times. Mr. Bowman indicated it would be helpful to have an excel spread sheet that is constantly updated.

Mr. Waks stated at the most recent Board of Supervisors Workshop meeting he raised the idea of an appropriate presentation for students who will receive scholarships and organizations that will receive grants from the BCA. The event would be held at the Valley Forge Casino [in a separate reception room next door at the hotel and not at the casino per se.] Mr. Bowman said to pick a date and let him know and the casino will definitely support.

Review and discussion of applications continued as follows:

3. King of Prussia Firefighters roof replacement
4. Upper Merion Emergency Aid – Back to School Project
5. Lafayette Ambulance Squad
6. Upper Merion Area School District Scholarship Fund
7. Upper Merion Skateboard Park – *engineering support*
8. Feel the Warmth – *applicant was asked to provide additional information and did not respond*
9. Montgomery County Child Advocacy Program

10. Neighborhood Meals on Wheels – *for elderly residents in Upper Merion Township*
11. Colonial Meals on Wheels – *serves West Conshohocken, Bridgeport, Upper Merion, in addition to Conshohocken, Plymouth and Whitemarsh – Colonial to be contacted to determine how many in Upper Merion are served*
12. Historic Philadelphia Inc. – *for a 2014 local history camp - tabled*
13. Upper Merion Crew Boosters – *not specific on what they were asking for*
14. Swedeland Fire Company – *renovations on backup generator – need to ask how much they have raised so far*
15. Optimist Club Valley Forge
16. Upper Merion Township Employees Scholarship Fund
17. ALS Association – *located in Amber - for patient holiday party to be held in King of Prussia – will be asked to pull some data on the those served in Upper Merion*

A discussion followed about the BCA meeting to be held in July which will probably be a dinner meeting because of the heavy agenda.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Mr. Bowman to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

  
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DAVID G. KRAYNIK  
TOWNSHIP MANAGER

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Minutes Approved: 7/10/13  
Minutes Entered: 7/11/13