

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE.
MARCH 26, 2014

The Board of Community Assistance of Upper Merion Township met for its regular meeting on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 in the Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by a pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present were: Greg Waks, Board of Supervisors Liaison; Scott Milner, Chairperson; Lydia Dan Sardinias; Robyn Briggs, Mike Bowman, President and CEO, Valley Forge Casino Resort (VFCR); Dave Kraynik, Township Manager; Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager; Angela Caramenico, Assistant to the Township Manager. Lydia Dan Sardinias arrived a few minutes late. Ira Lubert, VFCR, was absent.

MEETING MINUTES:

It was moved by Mr. Bowman, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, all voting "Aye" to approve the January 23, 2014 Meeting Minutes. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

As a first step for application review, Mr. Bowman recommended setting aside for further discussion all those applicants who received money last year and applied again this year. He also recommended a focus on the Township specific and all those outside the township should be set aside as well. Mrs. Briggs agreed.

Mr. Milner stated he took a different approach in that he did not necessarily rule out anyone from last year in the first round. He said there were some causes that were not asking for a lot; however, he was okay with Mr. Bowman's approach as well.

Mr. Bowman commented the biggest challenge from last year will be the scholarships and suggested setting aside that discussion until the big items for the organizations are considered. Everyone agreed.

Mr. Waks suggested even though the maximum grant that could be awarded is \$20,000 no one organization from last year received more than \$10,000; no one student received more than \$5,000 in scholarships and that

could be adopted as a formal procedure unless there are extraordinary circumstances.

Mr. Waks noted some of the smaller requests and suggested a blend of the Mr. Bowman and Mr. Milner's approaches. He said he would look at the smaller and more specific requests first to determine if they received money last year or not.

Mrs. Briggs commented while a certain project may be a great cause the question to ask if it would benefit the community.

Mr. Bowman asked how many total applications were received, and someone in the group noted 95 applications.

Mr. Milner commented on the great joint marketing effort in getting the word out on the BCA application deadline.

Mr. Milner stated the timeline from the last meeting was to do as much of the homework at this meeting making it easier to finalize the numbers for the next meeting and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors so that awards could be announced after June 1.

The 9 sports applications were reviewed and discussed. Some, but not all, of the applicants received awards last year. Tentative amounts for sports grants "penciled in" totaled \$11,700.

There was a discussion about some of the changing demographics in the township.

Ms. Dan Sardinas recused herself from discussion or consideration of the Upper Merion Farmers Market (UMFM) application since she is a member of the UMFM committee as well as the market manager. (Recusal Memo attached with these minutes).

Mr. Milner commented he supports the idea of capping organization grants at \$10,000 and \$5,000 for scholarships unless there is an urgent need.

Mr. Kraynik asked the BCA members if they would like to have Chief Nolan at the next meeting to discuss the police grant and everyone agreed.

After a review and discussion of the organization grant applications, Mr. Milner recapped a tentative total of \$88,841 for organizations and \$11,700 for sports.

Mr. Kraynik indicated he would obtain the amount of money remaining from last year as well as what is anticipated from the casino this year.

Mr. Bowman recommended leaving \$10,000 in reserve.

Ms. Dan Sardinas asked if any of the BCA members wanted any other applicants to come to the next meeting for further discussion.

Mr. Kraynik noted Chief Nolan and Dan Russell would be invited in to discuss further with the BCA.

Mr. Kraynik stated according to his notes the next meeting is Wednesday, April 23 at 6 p.m.

Mr. Milner discussed the timeline of potential additional meetings. Based on what was accomplished at the April 23rd meeting, his recommendation is to consider the 33 scholarships in a similar fashion and then revisit the remaining grant applications that are still pending. If additional time is needed to finalize the recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, an additional meeting could be scheduled.

Mr. Bowman stated the award ceremony should be finalized at the next meeting in order to assure the availability of the same venue.

Mr. Milner stated the agenda for the next meeting should include:

- Chief Nolan and Dan Russell presentations
- final application review
- finalize date for the award ceremony (note communicate via email before the next meeting to coordinate schedules)
- announce date for award ceremony at the next meeting if everyone can come to an agreement for a time that works

Mr. Bowman stated a public relations strategy should be developed similar to last year.

Mr. Milner stated the goal will be to streamline the approach with the scholarships as was done with the organizations at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Ms. Dan Sardinias, seconded by Mr. Bowman to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.



DAVID G. KRAYNIK
TOWNSHIP MANAGER

rap
Minutes Approved:
Minutes Entered: