

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE
November 12, 2014

The Board of Community Assistance of Upper Merion Township met for its regular meeting on Wednesday, November 12, 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; Mike Bowman, President and CEO, Valley Forge Casino Resort (VFCR); Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager; Angela Caramenico, Assistant to the Township Manager. Ira Lubert, VFCR, and Robin Briggs were absent.

MEETING MINUTES:

It was moved by Ms. Dan Sardinias, seconded by Mr. Bowman, all voting "Aye" to approve the July 23, 2014 Meeting Minutes as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

BCA MEMBER SELECTION OF ORGANIZATION TO AUDIT

Mr. Milner stated one of the actions from last meeting was to identify organizations to audit or consider auditing. Organizations had until the end of this year to complete their plan and organizations selected for audit would present their project plan sometime in early 2015.

Ms. Dan Sardinias indicated she had talked to Les Glauner about the skateboard park and she thought it would be a good publicity for him to make a presentation similar to what was done before the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Milner stated he selected the Elmwood Park Zoo.

Mr. Bowman suggested Mission Kids.

Mr. Milner indicated he would contact Mrs. Briggs for her input for the audit.

FINALIZATION OF BCA POLICY-GUIDELINES

Mr. Milner said the biggest challenge was clarifying what has already been done with regard to applicant eligibility. He reviewed and was satisfied with the

changes and asked for a motion to make a recommendation for approval by the Board of Supervisors.

BCA Action:

It was moved by Ms. Dan Sardinas, seconded by Mr. Bowman, all voting "Aye" to approve the changes with the recommendation for their approval by the Board of Supervisors. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

FINALIZATION OF APPLICATIONS

Mr. Milner indicated he reviewed both the scholarship and grant applications. He said Mrs. Briggs correctly pointed out there was some dialog about whether to include the question if an applicant does not have a plan would they be willing to volunteer for the township. Mr. Milner stated he did not favor that option since it adds more work for the BCA in finding suitable projects. He asked if there is any value to having this open ended and asked for the preferences of the BCA members one way or another from the township's perspective.

Ms. Dan Sardinas said she had a "question mark" since she recalled it was agreed not to do that. After a brief discussion it was agreed to strike this option since it does not reflect leadership quality on behalf of the applicant.

Mr. Milner indicated the remaining changes are fine. A motion was not necessary for the application changes. Mrs. Caramenico noted the revised changes will be posted on the website once the Board of Supervisors approves the BCA policy at the November 13th business meeting.

A discussion followed regarding the requirement to make up the difference if an applicant is not awarded the entire amount requested. While there were no strong opinions about this issue, it was agreed to leave it in and see how it goes. If it is a disincentive for the applicant and does not have any value it can be removed later.

CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT JAMES SHELTON – PUT ON HOLD

Mr. Milner stated James Shelton has deferred his admission to Case Western Reserve University and asked that his scholarship be placed on hold. He said he has no problem giving it to him next year if he is enrolling in school.

MEETING DATES (REMAINDER OF 2014)

Mr. Milner asked if there is a need for any additional meetings for 2014. After a brief discussion it was agreed the next meeting would be the reorganization meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2015.

Mr. Bowman asked about publicity for the BCA application process. It was discussed that social media will be used as well as the township website and UMGA-TV. Mr. Bowman also suggested an article in the local paper with a focus on the people and organizations that are helped by the BCA. Mr. Milner indicated his willingness to promote the application process before the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Waks suggested a presentation at a school board meeting as well.

Mr. Bowman asked when the bulk of applications are received by the township. It was indicated that most of the applications come in very close to the deadline.

Mr. Waks suggested the January business meeting would be a good time for a presentation to the Board of Supervisors because it will coincide with the recognition of Sean McComb, 2014 National Teacher of the Year who is an Upper Merion graduate.

Mr. Bowman asked if there is some kind of BCA statistical sheet to get a BCA "buzz" going. Mr. Milner responded the slides from his presentation before the Joint Meeting with the Board of Supervisors could be updated.

Mrs. Caramenico mentioned letters will go out the beginning of December to remind applicants of their obligation. Mr. Milner said he would come in and sign the letters when they are ready to be mailed.

Mr. Bowman commented there should be one scholarship that is extra special for an applicant that stands out among the others which he referred to as a "golden scholarship" and possibly named after someone in the Township. He said it could be marketed as the First Annual (name to be designated) Scholarship.

Mr. Milner asked that this be placed on the agenda for discussion early next year.

Mr. Waks discussed the administrative process for approving decisions made by the Board of Community Assistance and indicated it would more appropriately be done by the Upper Merion Township Foundation.

A discussion followed regarding some issues to be worked out with regard to organizations making application for grants which are under the umbrella of the Upper Merion Foundation.

Mr. Waks indicated this is a matter which will be discussed by the Board of Supervisors at their December workshop meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Mr. Bowman, seconded by Ms. Dan Sardinas to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.



DAVID G. KRAYNIK
TOWNSHIP MANAGER

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Minutes Approved:
Minutes Entered: