

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE  
March 11, 2015

The Board of Community Assistance of Upper Merion Township met for its regular meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 in the Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 5:26 p.m., followed by a pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present were: Greg Waks, Board of Supervisors Liaison; Scott Milner, Chairperson; Robyn Briggs, Vice Chairperson; 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 Lydia Dan Sardinas were absent.

MEETING MINUTES:

It was moved by Mr. Bowman, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, all voting "Aye" to approve the January 29, 2015 Meeting Minutes as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

PRESENTATIONS FROM BCA GRANT RECIPIENTS:

Elmwood Park Zoo – Jennifer Conti and Al Zone

Note: At 5:15 p.m., there was a lack of a quorum, so the first presenter, Elmwood Park Zoo, gave their presentation to the members present on an informal basis. At 5:26 p.m. another BCA member arrived and a quorum was present to officially open the meeting.

Skateboard Park – Detective Les Glauner

Upper Merion Detective Les Glauner, Chairman Upper Merion Skate Park Committee, expressed appreciation to the Board of Community Assistance for the BCA grant which assisted in obtaining the engineering of the Daniel T. Kellett Memorial Skate Park. T&M Associates who are part of the township's engineering group assisted in this effort. A meeting is being held on March 26<sup>th</sup> to put the project out to bid for construction. Over the past five years, the Upper Merion Skate Park Committee has been raising funds and with the support of the Board of Supervisors, residents and business community this project will soon be a reality.

Detective Glauner said the skate park will be what the kids call a "street style skate park." The idea was to keep this as a low profile park and different than some of the neighboring parks. The center of the park will have a grass sun-shaded canapé area with picnic tables where kids can sit and enjoy this activity off the streets.

Mrs. Briggs asked if Detective Glauner is confident in having adequate funds. Detective Glauner responded in the affirmative. He said the park design costs \$85,000, and with \$77,000 on hand and a \$10,000 donation forthcoming it will put them over their goal.

Mr. Milner asked about the rollout for the project. Detective Glauner responded they are hoping for completion by August 2015 if not sooner. It is basically a two-month construction project.

Mr. Waks pointed out the Community Center, Skate Park and trail will all be coming together on line within 30 days of each other.

#### TMA – Maureen Farrell

Maureen Farrell, Chief Operating Officer of "Communities in Motion", a GVF TMA Foundation, discussed the project that was awarded a BCA grant last year. The Foundation came about as a result of an idea to educate people out of their cars and consider alternative transportation methods. The Foundation's primary focus and target audience is our youth to get them to think about a healthier lifestyle. GVF is working with their partners on installing that infrastructure to build sidewalks and other initiatives focusing on the sustainability of a healthy lifestyle.

Ms. Farrell discussed the "Solar Car Challenge" which will be offered and available for 300 high school students. TMA's involvement with the grant is being part of the judging experience as well as a video to capture this learning experience. TMA is also looking at an opportunity for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> graders to focus on road safety.

Ms. Farrell said the Foundation will continue to work with the school district to bring these ideas to fruition.

Mr. Waks asked if GVFTMA is applying for a BCA grant this year. Ms. Farrell responded in the affirmative and indicated School Superintendent Callaghan is reviewing an application for road safety for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

#### Aquatic Club – Drew McNally

Drew McNally, President, Upper Merion Aquatic Club, expressed appreciation to the BCA for the \$5,000 grant they received last year. He said

their club provides swim instruction and has a swimming and diving team. Their program has gone from 18 weeks during the year up to 46 weeks and as a result they realized they did not have all the equipment some other programs have. Touch pads are needed for the races and the ones they had were not very reliable. The grant enabled the club to replace the touch pads that were breaking down as well as obtain two electronic pace clocks.

Mr. Milner asked how many swimmers participate in the program. Mr. McNally responded there are 178 participants in the program, 65 registered USA swimmers, and 22 divers. He indicated the club plans on submitting another grant application this year to advance their technology with underwater cameras.

#### IDEAS FOR INCREASING APPLICATIONS PRE-MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup> DEADLINE AND CONSIDERATION OF EXTENDING TWO WEEKS

Mr. Milner stated while this matter was on the agenda for discussion, because of the application response so far he does not believe that is necessary at this point. The BCA members agreed.

#### NAMING OF \$10,000 SCHOLARSHIP

In continuing the discussion from a previous meeting about naming a 10,000 scholarship, Mrs. Briggs had sent an email to BCA members suggesting naming the award after a general or Valley Forge historical figure. Mr. Milner opened the discussion for suggested names for the \$10,000 scholarship. Mrs. Briggs suggested that General Von Steuben be considered because he volunteered at the encampment training the troops. Mr. Milner said he would like to have a name approved before the scholarship is announced.

Mr. Waks reported on the reaction of the supervisors when he offered a few suggestions and indicated they were open to the suggestion of Ron Wagenmann.

Mr. Milner favored the idea of a general from Valley Forge, and Mrs. Briggs commented she would do some additional research.

Mr. Bowman suggested reaching out to Superintendent Kate Hammond at the Valley Forge National Historical Park for some suggestions to tie the scholarship to the park and community. Mr. Waks asked the Assistant Township Manager to look into this.

Mrs. Briggs noted last year there was a \$5,000 scholarship and suggested, for example, a \$5,000 Ron Wagenmann award and a \$10,000 award with a name to be determined. Mr. Bowman said that would send a good message. Mr. Waks commented it would not necessarily mean there is only one \$5,000 scholarship.

A discussion followed about the next meeting schedule and when to make the grant and scholarship announcements. Mr. Waks noted last year's announcement was made at the May Board of Supervisors business meeting. It was decided to hold the next BCA meeting on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> as a dinner meeting from 6 to 8 p.m.

Mr. Waks discussed a previous applicant who had some extenuating health considerations and staff will find out more information about this student's current situation.

Mrs. Briggs raised the issue of treatment of for profit schools to bring closure to the discussion that Supervisor Waks and Mr. Milner brought up at a previous meeting. Mr. Milner commented he recalled they decided the BCA would not make a recommendation to change the rule to disallow those applications, but would consider for profit schools as part of the BCA's general considerations.

A discussion followed about when to hold the award ceremony and it was decided to hold this event on Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. [Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>]

Mr. Bowman asked if the police or fire departments had any items on their wish list that was not included in their budgets. The Assistant Township Manager indicated she would follow up with the police department and library. Mr. Waks mentioned the EAC plans to apply for mile markers for the new trail. He also asked for follow up with the Public Information Office to see if there are any current needs.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Mr. Bowman to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID G. KRAYNIK  
TOWNSHIP MANAGER

rap  
Minutes Approved:  
Minutes Entered: