

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE  
APRIL 16, 2015

The Board of Community Assistance of Upper Merion Township met for its regular meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2015, 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 Liaison; Scott Milner, Chairperson; Robyn Briggs, Vice Chairperson; Lydia Dan Sardinas; Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager; Angela Caramenico, Assistant to the Township Manager. Ira Lubert and Mike Bowman, VFCR, were absent.

MEETING MINUTES:

It was moved by Ms. Dan Sardinas, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, all voting "Aye" to approve the April 8, 2015 Meeting Minutes as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

FINAL REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

A discussion followed during which the BCA members reconsidered several organizational and scholarship applications and made some adjustments to award amounts.

Mr. Milner noted the BCA will be making recommendations for 35 organizational awards, 3 sports and 30 scholarships.

Mr. Milner stated the letter going out to students should remind them that their project does not include any service work they performed pre-award including their high school project.

Mr. Milner asked for a motion to approve the recommended awards as drafted and discussed.

BCA Action:

It was moved by Ms. Dan Sardinas, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, all voting "Aye" to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the approval of awards as currently drafted with an allocation of \$49,000 for scholarships, \$12,500 for sports, and \$86,834.30 to organizations for a total of \$148,334.30. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

## ADDITIONAL IDEAS FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Because of confusion about the service project, Mr. Milner asked for a discussion about the best way to communicate that the service project does not include the high school project and must occur post award. He suggested reaching out to a guidance counselor for clarifying language. Mrs. Briggs offered to follow up with an email to a guidance counselor and also reach out to some students. Mr. Milner said to start with the guidance counselor and first see what they say and that the BCA is just trying to enhance the administrative process to make it very clear to applicants.

Mrs. Caramenico pointed out additional confusion since students do not know how much money they will receive they do not know whether they would have a 10 hour or 40 hour project. Mr. Milner said that was a good point.

## UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

Mr. Milner stated the next step in the process is the BCA recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on May 28<sup>th</sup> followed by the awards ceremony to be held on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Since the BCA will not have much to discuss until the application is finalized, he suggested circulating emails after the awards ceremony for a September meeting and an additional meeting in October.

Mrs. Caramenico asked for clarification about the congratulatory letters and whether the letter should incorporate language about the Board of Supervisors announcement. Mr. Milner suggested having an announcement made at the business meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup> with additional information about the awards ceremony.

With regard to the awards ceremony, Mrs. Caramenico indicated that Mr. Bowman previously suggested having a PowerPoint showing some visuals from last year. Mr. Milner said he believes Mr. Bowman wanted to have something running in the back as awards are distributed. Mrs. Briggs and Ms. Dan Sardinias suggested using some of the available pictures that have already been used in presentations. It was also noted quotes taken from student letters could be considered as some letters were very impressive.

Ms. Slook suggested once pictures have been selected they could also be posted on the BCA page on the township website which is currently in the process of revision. Mr. Milner suggested some photos of the awards ceremony.

A discussion followed about how the BCA awards could be incorporated into Ivy Day at the high school without discouraging attendance at the ceremony at the Valley Forge Casino Resort (VFCR). Another question discussed was whether there should be a second certificate for both ceremonies and remind the

students via the letter the Ivy Day certificate is a secondary honor. Mr. Milner felt having an announcement at Ivy Day would not discourage attendance at the VFCR.

The final issue concerned logistics for getting the list of awardees to the high school in time for the Ivy Day booklet and keeping it confidential.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Ms. Dan Sardinas to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.



DAVID G. KRAYNIK  
TOWNSHIP MANAGER

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Minutes Approved: 9/16/15  
Minutes Entered: 9/17/15

