



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting

January 20, 2022

Meetings for the Board of Directors of ECGRA can begin meeting in a physical location per Governor Wolf's proclamation of June 11, 2021. However, each member and ex-officio has the option to attend in person or virtually. Members of the public can now speak at the physical location of 5240 Knowledge Parkway.

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Directors' Meeting of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was held on January 20, 2022 at 5240 Knowledge Parkway, Erie, PA 16510. Legal Notice of the meeting was given through an advertisement appearing in the Erie Times-News. The meeting was called to order by the Chair.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Barney, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. DiPaolo, Ms. Hess, Ms. Loll, and Mr. Paris are present via Zoom. Mr. Sample (arrives late) is present in person. Mr. Wachter is present via Zoom, and Dr. Wood is present in person.

Ms. Loll's computer has no audio so she will be communicating via the chat function.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. DiPaolo seconds the motion. There is no discussion of the agenda. Motion carries 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 2021

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. DiPaolo seconds the motion. There is no discussion on the minutes. Motion carries 6-0.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

There are no comments by anyone from the Board of Directors at this time.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Mr. Barney: I just want to thank everyone for a great year last year and I look forward to a successful year of service this year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There is no public present.

PRESENTATIONS

There are no presentations scheduled.

Dr. Wood: Carol, I see your comment in the chat about not being able to hear. According to my screen, you are on mute right now. If you go to the lower left-hand corner of your screen and click the unmute icon, that should help.

Mr. Cleaver: It doesn't work for everybody; I tried that.

Dr. Wood: I will keep an eye on the chat so we can move on.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Cleaver: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I reviewed the finances with Dr. Wood and everything seems in order; not much was happening in the short month of December. I have one question, Tammi, and it could be me, but I did not receive the credit card report. It's not a big deal, but I wanted you to know that I didn't run across it. I see now that you have it on the screen. Other than that, everything is fine on my end, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. Michali: Mr. Cleaver, I apologize. I must have sent the incorrect file.

Dr. Wood: Let's take a look at the credit card statement then and see if the Board has any questions.

Mr. Cleaver: I certainly don't now that I've had a chance to look at it.

Mr. DiPaolo makes a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Mr. Paris seconds the motion. There are no questions or discussion of the Treasurer's Report. Motion carries 6-0.

- b. Strategic Planning Committee: There was no meeting held.

Mr. Barney: Perry, before we move on, have we been informed of our County Council liaison?

Mr. Sample joins the meeting in person.

Dr. Wood: I have had a couple conversations with Council. Chairman Shank, I believe, is going to appoint himself as the liaison, as is the tradition of late for the Chairman to appoint themselves as our liaison. I also had a conversation with Doug Smith, and he didn't know who the liaison would be from the County Executive's office, but he would let me know as soon as they figured that out. Of course, that tradition has been to have the Director of Administration be the liaison.

- c. Update from County Council
- d. Update from County Executive's Office

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Wood: I am going to talk briefly about the ARPA monies and then under the Solicitor's Report, I want to talk to you about this letter that has come in from the Lead Assets; I just wanted to have a brief conversation about it and tell you how the staff is currently responding to that.

In the Director's Report, you will see we got an interesting letter from the County Executive and two Council members about the role of Authorities and how we should be interacting with the Davis Administration. I think it speaks for itself, but if you have any questions you can follow up with me on it later. I think it's a bunch of saber-rattling, but it doesn't really matter. It is what it is, and we'll take it for face value.

There is a letter in here about the Knox Law Firm raising their prices by 3%. There's a report from Parker Philips on their activities, a press release for the Community Centers that went out, a couple letters from grantees that are thankful for the funding – I always like to include those so that you can see there are folks who appreciate us. Those things are followed up by some news clippings from when we were in the media for projects being funded.

The majority of what I wanted to talk to you about, and I'll be brief, is to give you an update on ARPA fundings. As you could see in the financials, the \$4 million did come in; it is sitting in the savings account. We, of course, have a contract that we signed with the County which was kind of rushed through at the end of December in order to get it on the books. It is under a category known as 2.10 Aid to Nonprofits. We were selected to do that under the title of Transformational Grants. What the County means by that is it is very limited. It is:

1. Make sure you align projects and programs with priorities and recommendations in Emerge 2040, as well as other existing regional plans,
2. Provide a cash match,
3. Adhere to contemporary practices and policies with regards to diversity, equity, and inclusion to be eligible, and
4. Must be a 501(c)3

It doesn't really give a definition of what transformational is; that is going to be up to us to decide as we start reviewing grants. The ECGRA framework for grantmaking, though, is a great place to start.

So, in the contract, we had to lay out some ideas that we would consider funding for. We laid out three of them in accordance with our current grant process. 1) Investing in Entrepreneurship and Small Business, 2) Investing in Quality of Place, or Placemaking as we more commonly call it, and 3) Investing in Community Facilities.

Tim, Tom, Tammi, and I have been studying the Federal requirements on us for the ARPA funds. We are what is known as a subrecipient, which means that we have the responsibility to report back to the Federal government on how we spent the funds, not the County. We have the responsibility to report back to the Feds. That is important to point out because there are certain requirements in here that are going to cause us to have a separate audit of just the ARPA funds, and there is a lot of compliance. There is a thousand-page document with all kinds of requirements in

there. Tim has done a great job of narrowing it down to two key sections that we are going to be focusing on. The four of us did a study session on that yesterday thanks to Tim; there is a lot of good information in there and we're almost to the point where we're ready to start taking grant applications for these funds.

I'll answer any questions you have about ARPA. Hearing none, I'll conclude my Executive Director's report and as always, feel free to follow up with me individually after the meeting or if a question occurs to you later, email me, text me, or give me a call. Thank you.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wachter: I wanted to say that we have an Executive Session scheduled here to discuss some legal advice relative to a letter you had received last month, which was in last month's Executive Director's report that didn't receive any conversation. I wanted to give you some legal advice with respect to that.

Recording of the meeting stops at 8:44 am and resumes at 9:00 am.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Barney: I do have one question pertaining to the request from the entities that wanted to have some money set aside; did we hear back from any of them?

Mr. Wachter: Perry, I believe he's talking about the YLI (Youth Leadership Institute).

Dr. Wood: The Youth Leadership Institute, that's in progress right now. They are getting their documents in. The UECD (Urban Erie Community Development Corporation) has said they would like to come back to us in February; that's when they will be prepared to draw down. The group in Impact Corry, I am not sure where that stands. They are not even sure if they are going to draw down.

Mr. Barney: I was just curious because we put that up and was just wondering if there was any correspondence on that.

Dr. Wood: Tom might be able to chime in on that. Did you get documents back from Edison Nicholson yet?

Mr. Maggio: Not signed; not yet.

Dr. Wood: Tim has done the paperwork, we've reviewed it as a staff, we shot it over to him, and so the ball is in his court.

Mr. Wachter: Mr. Chairman, if I may say that the Harborcreek Little League was a grant that we had issued many years ago; they didn't do the project and we were able to receive a check back from them for the full grant amount. So, we've returned that to the Gaming Authority and hopefully by now you have received that.

Mr. Barney: Ok. Well maybe we can help them in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Michali: There is a question from Carol in the chat.

Dr. Wood: Tammi, would you mind looking that up so we can answer that? Carol is asking, "How much money has Impact Corry received?" I don't know why we're picking on Impact Corry; it's kind of pissing me off, to be honest with you.

Carol's response in the chat is: "I am not picking on it. I just wanted a response since Dom didn't get an answer in the meeting last month."

Ms. Michali: Impact Corry has received \$481,000.

Dr. Wood: There you go. On we go.

Mr. Barney: Dr. Wood, do you have anything additional to add?

Dr. Wood: There is no new business from our end; no new resolutions. However, we will have some for you in February.

Mr. Barney: Does any other Board member have any questions or comments?

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Sample moves to adjourn. Mr. Paris seconds the motion.