



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting

February 21, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Directors' Meeting of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was held on February 21, 2019 in the Jordan Room; 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. Bagnoni (via phone), Mr. Barney, Mr. DiPaolo, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Sample. Mr. Lee, Mr. Leone (arrives late), Mr. Wachter, and Dr. Wood are also present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Sample makes a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Barney seconds the motion. There is no discussion of the Agenda. Motion carries 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 2019

Mr. Barney makes a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Sample seconds the motion. There is no discussion of the Minutes. Motion carries 5-0.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

There are no comments at this time.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Mr. Paris has no comments at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There is no public comment.

PRESENTATIONS

- a. Erie County Re-Entry Services and Support Alliance – Sheila Silman, Program Manager and Georgia DeFreo, VP of Operations

Ms. Silman: Good morning. Allow me to first introduce myself. I'm Sheila Silman, the Program Manager for the Erie County Re-Entry Services & Support Alliance and this is Georgia DeFreo, GECAC's Vice President of Operations.

I understand that we have about ten minutes so what I have done to help you is you have a certain amount of information in your hand; this is what I will be looking at and referring to during the presentation (the single page) just so you have a clear understanding. Also, my contact information is on the back; this is a brochure that we hand out to anybody who is interested and for other agencies to hand out to those individuals that may be interested. There are flyers inside on a couple different pieces of programming that we offer.

This program is an absolute result of a partnership between Unified Erie, Erie Together, and about 40 community stakeholders, whether they are in criminal justice and community services as well as concerned citizens in various phases. We started in 2013, meeting over three years to come up with what is the best plan and type of program based on data and based on evidence-based outcomes to address the needs of individuals who are returning from incarceration along with those individuals who are currently maybe in our community and involved in gun-related violence. Most recently, there was a Call-In, and that is a group violence reduction strategy and it goes around groups and violence as we're all familiar with the homicides that are taking place. Let me start with that.

This packet gives you a lot more detail and a lot more data and information. Mercyhurst Civic Institute is our research partner and that is who put that second packet together. Let's start on this side of the page so I can briefly show you some outcomes around how our program has definitely accomplished a major goal, which is reducing violence within the community. Within the community, you can see on the left side of the page that homicides in the City in 2014 to 2018; group-related homicides are in the gray and in 2014 there were five and in 2018 there were zero. Our program officially started in September 2016 and in 2017 we had what they call a "call-in" which is an event where individuals that are identified through a social network analysis; it's not by name but through direct identification numbers. It's specific types of crimes that are related to violence.

Those two homicides took place before our call-in in 2017 so what we are able to say is that since 2017, the event which is held in a church within the community, we have 12 speakers, of those speakers and the Mayor is very much on board with this, the Erie Police Chief, we have Jack Daneri District Attorney, Marsha PENCHINI from the Federal Prosecutor's Office and then we also go to the other side and we have a mother; a mother who has been a victim of violence because her two sons lost their lives to violence. And then we have actual individuals who appear that have actually come through the criminal justice system, turn their lives around, and also men who have been successful. We bring them forward for the participants to see that there are successful men in our community; this is not a lifestyle that you have to give into thinking that there's no other opportunity. Since then, we've had zero group-related homicides.

Over to the right-hand side you'll see there were 379 shots fired in 2014; that dropped down to 139 in 2018. The message that we want these people to stay alive and out of prison has been very effective. It also has been effective in the message that if we find that you have been invited to this, you have chosen not to partake, you want to continue in this lifestyle, then there are going to be consequences and it has been brought up within the court system,

during sentencing; this actually happened this past May when we had our third call-in. This young man was attempting, he was there, he heard the same message everybody else did. That weekend unfortunately, he involved himself in a situation where he ended up being involved in a gun shots-fired incident and that same day or the day before our last call-in which was January 23rd of this year, the District Attorney told the participants, "You know who I'm talking about. He was sentenced. He came, he heard, he didn't listen, he didn't heed, and he got six and a half to thirteen years." That is what we're trying to steer from.

The message is out there; they take it out to their peers. That is one part of the program. If you flip to the other side of the page, we will talk about the second part which is the individuals returning from incarceration. We have two levels of service within our program; the highest is called Intensive Case Management. This is for individuals who are residing here at the time of the events, incarcerated, and then returning back to the community. Those individuals, if they have already come back to the community and we didn't know about them before they left the prisons and went to jail, they have been here less than six months. Again, the goal is to reduce violence and recidivism within our county.

Dr. Wood: Can I just accentuate that for a minute and make sure that the Board heard it? You are focused on Erie County residents in the program that you are talking about today.

Ms. Silman: Yes. That is correct. Thank you for clarifying that. Allow me to go the next step. Yes, it's Erie County residents, but we do have individuals who are county residents that have been out more than six months. Maybe they're struggling with locating work due to criminal history and they are still welcome to come to us or if they are not originally from here at the time of the offense but they relocated here, then we'd offer a second level of service which we call Resource Coordination.

What's the difference? The length of time is the difference. The Intensive Case Management individual we work with anywhere from a year to two years; it depends on them. We also have what we call Client Support Funds and we will help utilize those dollars for that individual, which is our citizen, whether it's a bus pass, whether it's identification – which is a big thing – helping them get a state photo ID, birth certificate, that could be something that could be a barrier to gaining employment; it could be something to help them work through, things like that. That's the difference. And the Resource Coordination individual is up to 90 days and we don't utilize any Client Support Funds, but we will do anything Case Management wise.

The whole goal is to help the individual access and obtain whatever it is that they need to be able to succeed. In pointing out on the left side, you see our recidivism. It is out of the higher levels of service that our recidivism numbers are gathered because we work with them so long plus that's our citizen. When we were doing our strategic plan, we determined there was approximately a 42% recidivism rate across the board. So, that's where this number comes from when you look up and see 11 with new charges resulting in conviction and incarceration, those that were in our program when this occurred were at a 7% rate versus the 41% rate.

What does that mean in dollars and cents? It costs us \$12/day to work with individuals. These are projected numbers but if the individual goes to the Erie County prison, it's \$74/day, at the State it's about \$117/day, and at the Federal it's about \$95/day. The Governor is very much on board with Re-Entry, the Pennsylvania Re-Entry Council that myself and Amy Eisert from the Civic Institute that we're members of, and he himself at the press conference when they announced the Pennsylvania Re-Entry Council, he said (and he's right) that 95% across the nation of individuals who are incarcerated will return home. So, we need

to be prepared for the fact that these individuals are coming back, they've paid their price. How do we help them through this journey to access and attain what they need? Not only that, but to take it a step higher and that is when we talk about revitalization in our community and we talk about development and economic development, we do not want to forget that this is a valuable workforce population that can contribute and can bring in dollars, not in the sense of to their own homes, but also tax base. In the long haul we're looking at savings with real estate and investments in those areas as well.

On the right-hand side you'll see the goals achieved and outcomes; those are the jobs. The goal was identified; not everybody is looking for work because many have Social Security disability when they come out . . .

Ms. DeFreo: . . . or retirement. We have had several that when they came out, they were retirement age.

Ms. Silman: That's the other part too. It varies from anybody being in as short as three months to, within the County system, to the State system we had one gentleman who had been in for 35 years coming out. Think about 35 years and what has changed; let alone technology, the lay of the land. So much has changed. We had one guy who come out at 68 and he was in for 28 years and he was from Erie County – he couldn't get over the price of rent. He couldn't get over the cost of certain items in the grocery store; he was totally unprepared for inflation.

So, we are very pleased to see and be able to report that we are at a 77% placement rate for jobs. We work with employers, one in particular who actually called me when I started in 2016 – Corey from Sterling Technologies in Lake City. We have a Case Manager who works very well with their Human Resources personnel out there; we have approximately 20 individuals that we helped get employment out there. It's a full-time job. It's benefits. It's that kind of employment. It's not temporary employment.

I wanted to keep it brief because I know we only had ten minutes and let me wrap it up with where we are at with funding. We are at the end of our grant years. Erie Community Foundation and United Way of Erie County gave us a grant, between the two of them, \$600,000 a piece for \$1.2 million. We have enough money to safely get ourselves through July and August. We have been looking and have made the County Executive aware – we actually met with her in March of 2017 and again in 2018. We have held quorums to let folks know who we are, what we've done. Unified Erie's goals, ECRSSA, GECAC is the lead agency and we are looking to continue this program.

Let me end with this; typical case management in Erie County is usually around an individual, eligibility has a serious mental illness diagnosis, and most recently a diagnosis of opioid/substance abuse. Any individual who doesn't have that cannot receive case management in any form or fashion. This is not a level of care – it's not clinical – it's a level of service that has a very different eligibility base and really meets the needs of our individuals coming out.

I'm happy to open it up to questions, or Georgia, if there are any additional comments that you have.

Mr. Lee: Good morning, Sheila. Good morning, Georgia. First of all, thanks for the presentation. I'm well aware of the work that is being done through your particular initiative and I'll go on record as saying, Unified Erie has done a remarkable job – an outstanding job. The model that they have, which is prevention, enforcement, and re-entry which is the part you presented today, is a model that has really received national attention. I was at a convention

about two years ago for National Associations of Counties and I shared with them about Unified Erie and they were astonished about what the initiative incorporated but more importantly about the outcomes. As you can see, this is an outcome driven initiative. I hope you are able to leverage the funding. You were right to meet with the County Executive, myself, and our leadership team to talk about where you are and where you are going. I just feel that the work is so important in this community and is really, really needed. What I can really appreciate is the outcomes. Many times, we see programs and organizations come before us, but they don't have outcome information and they don't have measurable results. I commend you for that. Thank you for coming.

Ms. Silman: Just so you know for the funding, what we have is a staff of six. It is three case managers; we run right now a little high on the amount of people. Right now, we are at about 160 – 170 people a month right now that we work with and that includes both levels of service. I have an intake call-in coordinator who helps us coordinate all the intakes, myself, and we are sub-contracted through the Downtown YMCA for our client advocate role. It is a person who is a peer – he has done over 11 years of incarceration and he works with the individuals as a mentor. The bulk of the budget is really for staff.

Dr. Wood: Just summarizing back to you just to make sure we understand. My understanding of Unified Erie is it's basically a violence-interruption initiative and one piece of it is the re-entry piece and that is the piece that comes on the back end. So, the call-in is your violence interruption piece and the re-entry is trying to get folks who are disconnected from society and the workforce back into the workforce.

Ms. DelFreo: When the strategy was first being developed and Unified Erie was looking at options and evidence-based programming for the enforcement section of the three-pronged approach, one of the things that came up was this call-in, a group violence reduction strategy. When they started looking at that process and the steps that came into play and looked especially at the help side of it, which is connecting those individuals that come to that event with services afterwards. We don't just tell them, "We want you safe, alive, and out of prison. Good luck." We say, "We want you safe, alive, and out of prison and here's all the people who can help you." We have all those services available that very night for them to talk to and then afterwards.

So, when they realize how similar that was to the services that were being put into place for the re-entry clients, that's when we realized we're not going to duplicate. We're not going to have two different entities doing the same thing and that's when we married those two pieces together with re-entry.

Mr. Barney: Doesn't GECAC provide a number of services like that, not necessarily for people incarcerated, but who need help with housing, jobs, things of that nature?

Ms. DelFreo: What this does is it gives these individuals a one stop location to go to to get connected to those services. Anytime that there is a service already available in the community, whether GECAC provides it directly, St. Martin Center, the County through programs that they offer or whoever, we refer and we even will walk them to those services. They'll help them make the phone calls, they'll show them where those things are for the things that are not covered by those programs. Sheila mentioned sometimes some of our individuals don't qualify for workforce supports at the Career Link, but they need that pair of work boots or that set of tools to go get that job; they got the job but that's their barrier to get

that. This program can fill in those gaps, so we are leveraging those. But when you think about what she said about some of these individuals who have gone away 20 – 30 years plus, the Career Link didn't exist twenty years ago. A lot of the GECAC services were around back then but not all of them were. So, this gives them one place to go to help them to get to everything available in the community, which is unique.

Mr. DiPaolo: Is this mandatory through their probation or parole?

Ms. Silman: It's voluntary but many times they will call and point them our way. As we know, and you were District Magistrate for many, many years, we know that you can certainly lead the horse to water, but if it's not in their heart for treatment, it's not going to work.

The nice part is that we have individuals on our staff who are from the community and they know a lot of these individuals and you sit down and it's that relationship engagement. If you're connecting with someone, if I'm coming in for a program and I'm connecting with that individual, you're more likely to have success than you are if you go in and go through the motions. I think that's another key piece, our team.

Mr. Sample: You made mention that sometimes one of the stumbling blocks, if you will, is the Social Security aspect. But some people have the limitation of if they go out and enter the workforce and make too much money, they lose those services. Is there any move to set some of that aside because the quality of life for people . . .

Ms. Silman: To try to answer your question - correct, there is a certain amount of money an individual can earn. What there are, there are a couple of places so if someone is on Social Security, SSI, you have to have a disability of some form. Most individuals it's around some form of mental health disability. Stairways Health has a program called Opportunities Unlimited and there are other part-time places that we can help people look into. That's the beauty of this is that our case managers understand how to give that person direction so they don't put that major income at risk and help guide them and direct them to get them where they need to be and be able to get a better quality of life and keep the income.

Mr. Sample: A lot of it is about self-esteem. If they're being told they can't work . . .

Ms. Silman: You are correct. And that is not always the case. They may not be able to work full-time but they certainly can do something to contribute. We often suggest volunteer work; there's no reason a person couldn't do volunteer work as well.

Dr. Wood: Just one last question, unless the Board has one. As Mr. Lee said, the program is a priority at the County and since it's economic development related we referred you to Ridge Policy Group. Could you tell us a little bit about how you worked with them? You are in the process, right?

Ms. Silman: We are in the process. I actually got an email earlier this week from the Ridge Policy Group that they are "shaking the tree", as they like to say, and that they would be getting back to us soon.

And so you're aware, I don't mind being transparent, we met this week myself and Amy Eisert with Dave Gibbons from UPMC Hamot, also Dr. James Taylor who is out of UPMC Pittsburgh, and Hamot's HR person, Christie. We talked with them, we have approached Erie Insurance for some funding, we have come here to you folks. Perry was gracious to meet with

us, Georgia, myself, and Mike Outlaw who I apologize wasn't able to make it today, to share this whole initiative and the outcomes and how vital it is. We've been trying to do our due diligence.

We have applied for grants; we applied for a Second Chance Act Grant over a year ago, we applied for a PCCD Grant and we missed that one by two points. The thing is with grants is they pigeonhole you into specific boundaries and the nice thing about being program-funded, which this is, is that it gives you the ability to make the decisions to help serve that individual. We've considered Medical Assistance funding; I met with John DiMattio, Erie County Director of Department of Human Services. Medical Assistance funding you have to be accredited and licensed. The other part would be what they call Blended Case Management again coming back to a serious mental illness diagnosis giving that person eligibility for it. Mr. DiMattio shared with us, honestly, there are over 4,000 clients on BCM services and they're not looking to expand that service in Erie County. That would take out those other individuals who don't have that serious mental illness diagnosis.

I want you to be well aware that we've done our due diligence to make sure that we're looking across the board to those who would be interested in partnering with us on this.

Mr. Paris: Are there any other questions? Thank you so much.

Dr. Wood: Thank you.

Ms. Silman: Thank you for your time. We very much appreciate it. You are more than welcome to pass this out to whomever. You never know if someone we know is involved in criminal justice. Thank you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Barney: Good morning. I'm going to try and be just as brief. Hopefully everybody has had the opportunity to look over the Treasurer's Report. We will start with the Profit & Loss. There is nothing out of the ordinary on it, but I would like to note that if you go down to the Other Income & Expenses, you'll see Blue Highway Capital at \$250,000. That's the total loan. Summer Jobs drew down a little more this time, \$5,492.74. The only other drawdown was Community Assets, \$10,250. If you notice at the top, we didn't receive anything under the Gaming Revenue, but that will be coming in next month. Any questions on the Profit & Loss page?

Mr. Lee: Dale, when we talk about year-to-date, we're talking about the fiscal year?

Mr. Barney: Yes. We will be wrapping the fiscal year up shortly. Next, we'll go over to the Balance Sheet. Nothing out of the ordinary, just indicating Notes Receivable for Blue Highway. That's just the new loan that's out of there. Insurance you'll notice it's high and that's because we pay it all at once and as the months go on, we draw down. That's why that's \$12,841 for the insurance.

Statement of Cash Flow -you know we operate in the negative for Net Income as we proceed.

Dr. Wood: May I make one comment on the Cash Flow? We did receive the fourth quarter funding, but it came in in February so it's not going to be on the January financials, about \$1.3 million and that's what we're going to be receiving on average from the County for the second,

third, and fourth quarters. But that brings the total revenue for the year to \$4.45 million; that's a drop from \$5.4 million but that's basically the million for the land bank. I think it's safe to assume that's our new normal.

Mr. Sample: The casino has kind of leveled off because we had been experiencing drops.

Mr. Barney: Any questions pertaining to what Perry said? Now, onto Budget vs. Actual. If you had the chance to look at it, you'll notice nothing out of the ordinary. Books and Subscriptions – that's pertaining to the Times Newspaper. Advertising – it's quite large at \$2,666.90 – it should be noted that \$2,500 of that is for the Pennsylvania Downtown Center Conference because we were a sponsor of that and the remainder is for the Times News when we advertise our meetings. Travel – you might think, "Where did they go for \$523.98?" That's Board reimbursement for coming here and staff what travel they needed to do; that amount is quarterly.

Moving along to the Schedule of Grant Reserve, there is nothing out of the ordinary there. Check Detail report shows nothing out of the ordinary. If you see anything that raises questions, feel free to speak up.

Dr. Wood: Can I make a couple of comments on the Schedule of Grant Reserve? Harborcreek Little League received their Community Asset payment of \$10,250, GECAC drew down \$5,492 on Summer Jobs – that still leaves about \$9,000 left on Summer Jobs – and as Dale mentioned on the P&L under Notes Receivable, the Blue Highway Capital MRI was finalized by Tim and myself. Those are the main activities.

Mr. Barney: Does anybody have any questions pertaining to the checks or the credit cards? Perry's credit card has travel and phone/IT. Tammi's shows office supplies and postage and she indicated what was purchased for the CA press conference. If there are no questions, that concludes my report.

Mr. Sample makes a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mr. DiPaolo seconds the motion. There are no questions or comments of the Treasurer's Report. Motion carries 5-0.

- b. Strategic Planning Committee: Mr. Sample: On Monday, February 11th we had a Strategic Planning Committee meeting that was very well attended; five out of seven showed up. We reviewed the Maher Duessel quarterly reviews for the first two quarters. If you all remember last year we had voted to move to quarterly reviews of the financials as opposed to yearly, so Maher Duessel did that and didn't find anything out of the ordinary and presented that to us.

Next, we talked about the draft budget and during that time we reviewed the office lease. It had been requested of the staff that we look at other spaces available out in the County. There were numerous places; there were places that were less money but didn't have parking. We're still going through that. I believe it was also requested that we look at Pleasant Ridge East in the future; I don't believe it's available as of yet. That information was all very valuable. Frankly, I had always assumed that we paid a premium to be out here and with all things considered, I think this is a pretty good deal because of all the amenities that we get. But that's my own opinion. We get the meeting rooms at no charge and a couple other things, but we can continue to go down and review that.

We also reviewed the employee increases. There was some question as to how that was presented. I personally believe that we should look at merit-based plus cost of living. We're going to go in and review some more of that and looking at doing some additional

negotiations; not with the employees increases but that will be reviewed and presented before the budget. We also reviewed the Pilot Project from the Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership – Erie Business Attraction Support.

Frankly, I was very pleased with the attendance and I thought it was a very good session. We did have three attendants from the community and we had to inform them that it really wasn't a question and answer period but that's part of the fact that when we advertise our meetings as we are required to, that they have every right to be there and listen to what's going on. I think they were a little surprised that it wasn't a situation for commentary. That's all I have.

Mr. Paris: Thanks, Dave. Are there any questions? If not, we'll move on.

c. Update from County Council: Mr. Leone: I have nothing to report.

d. Update from County Executive's Office: Mr. Lee: I will be very brief. The Summer Jobs Program 2019, and I will be sharing more as time goes on as we get closer to the kick-off. As you know, GECAC will be the Administrator for the program; this was done through the RFP process. They are in the third year of a potentially four-year contract. The reason I say that the contract covered for two years was an extension for two additional years. So, they are in the third year, which would be the first year of the extension.

We're going to be working very closely with them. One of the key areas that we feel is an opportunity to improve on is the interviewing process with the students and better matching the students with the employer. The projected amount of students for this year would be about 175; we view that as the cut-off line. That's what we had last year. Mr. Ben Wilson who is the key point person for GECAC, he has been working with the Department of Labor and Industry with Ridge Policy Group; they have set up conversations that have gone really well. They are going to be submitting a grant application in the near future for a potential match for the Summer Jobs Program.

In addition, we will be meeting with the Erie Regional Manufacturing Association about the pre-apprentice program; we made them a partner and we're going to do some things with them in the Erie region. So, we're excited. More information will be coming as we get closer to the launch of the program, which is April of this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Sample: I have one statement and one question, Gary. As I had expressed before, I was very pleased with GECAC's outreach last year into the County. I thought they did a great job making people aware that it was available, and they gave people enough time, especially in the school districts which is where a lot of this has to be orchestrated.

My question, it seems that about 180 is the manageable level. We had dreamed at one point to go beyond that, but I think you start to see a diminishment of services if you go beyond that at this point. Are we shooting at 180 again?

Mr. Lee: We're shooting at about 175 and it goes up to 180 without it being an issue. To your point, Dave, you're right. We cannot, based on capacity, we cannot exceed over 180 and based on the quality. Right now, it's more important to improve upon what we have. The County Administration has put a lot of emphasis that this is a County-wide program; we reiterated that to GECAC last year, so I'm glad to hear the feedback from you on that Dave because our goal – and again, this is going to take time, it's a process – but to have 50% inside the City of Erie and 50% outside the City of Erie. Currently, it's about 70/30. Some years it was about 65/35 but pretty much it hovers around 70% inside the City of Erie and 30%

outside the City of Erie. Again, since this is a County-wide program, the goal is to try and get 50/50.

It's really important to us that we really improve the quality of the program. We have gotten reports back from Keystone each year and one of the key areas is to do a better job of matching students with career opportunities. That's where we're going to start putting more emphasis on and that's where the interviewing process comes in.

Mr. Sample: And I think the exit interviews that they did at the end of last year were very helpful.

Mr. Paris: Thanks, Gary.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Wood: Good morning, everybody. I just want to give you a quick update on four things, primarily the revenue, which I mentioned during the Treasurer's Report, the Strategic Planning meeting we had, the 2019 Grants Management Plan that the staff has been diligently working on (we have a handout in front of you detailing what that's going to look like), and then our next step which is to look over nine Mission Main Street grant applications as well as Special Events, which will be coming in at the end of the month. We're going to have a busy grant review session the next time we convene to review the grants.

Let's start with the revenue. I mentioned briefly during the Treasurer's Report the final revenue for the calendar year of 2018 and the total was \$4,450,000. The chart on your left demonstrates the downward decline that we've been experiencing in funding and the chart on your right illustrates that the revenues are now coming in more evenly over a quarterly basis as opposed to the old fashioned, what we called the hockey stick model, where the true up or the majority of the funds would come in February/March of the following calendar year. Just to remind you, that is because in the first quarter, approximately \$700,000 of funds are being taken out for the land bank, in the second quarter another \$300,000 goes to the land bank, and then third and fourth quarter are more balanced and budgeted at about \$1.3 million.

We did hold a Strategic Planning meeting on February 11th, as was mentioned by Mr. Sample. We reviewed the Maher Duessel quarterly financials; we did two reports at that time because Maher Duessel is now catching up with doing quarterly reviews for us, they came in a little later than usual. We think that in 2019 we'll have a better schedule with them and they will actually come on a quarterly basis. We will be seeing the third quarter financials probably within the next month, and that will tee up nicely with the annual audit which is due in June to County Council.

We did also review the draft budget; we do not have another draft for you because we are still taking feedback from Board members on that. If you have any final questions on the draft budget just reach out and ask us and we will provide feedback.

We reviewed that Pilot Project that the Erie Regional Chamber had submitted. The committee had decided to decline funding at this time. This was a Phase 2 concept to the Choose Erie project. We did fund Phase 1 of the Choose Erie project to the tune of \$39,500. We decided to pass on Phase 2. We'll see what the Chamber comes up with for Phase 3.

The Grants Management Plan in front of you, there are two sheets, the top one is a Grant chart in order to give you an idea how the staff is spreading the grants out throughout the year. January opens the Special Events which then closes in March, Mission Main Street Round 2 just came in in February and like I mentioned there were nine applications that came in and I will talk to you about those in a second. You haven't had a chance to review those yet; Tom will send out a link to review those and we'll have a committee meeting.

February through June, technically Renaissance Block Round 2 – that is technically open right now. However, we're not sure what the interest is. We're still gaging the interest. Those will be reviewed and awarded in June. We've had two communities, so far, express interest in the next round of Renaissance Block. We'll come back to you when we have better surveyed the interest in that.

February through June is Multi-Municipal Collaboration. March is a maybe as well; that is the third round of Mission Main Street. We're currently in the second round with nine applications. That's quite a bit. We budgeted \$2.5 million for that program over a three-year period and we did just over \$1 million in Round 1. Let's see what Round 2 does before we decide whether or not to open this up for Round 3. That's a question mark at this point.

Anchor Building is set to open in April. That's another interesting one because we've done some surveying and found out that there are other historical structures out there that qualify as Anchors for community revitalization. Those results are coming in as well; we have the feelers out there.

One of the things we talked about last year was the overwhelming number of applications that came in for Community Assets as we expanded that concept. The staff is recommending that we break it up into three cycles so that we review it in three cycles. Actually, in two cycles if you consider that Parks, Fields, & Trails and Community Centers are simultaneously. What we have is to open up those two up in July and the Arts, Culture, & Heritage to open in April. That's how we have it on the schedule. Based upon the sheer number that we get in, we know that Arts, Culture, & Heritage always have the largest number of applications. From a management standpoint, we think this will make 2019 more manageable. We also broke this out, if you prefer to see it in bullet form, the second page gives you an idea of the open, close, and award dates with potential grant workshops mixed in.

Finally, Mission Main Street. We just got these applications in. Just to review quickly, we introduced new guidelines for Mission Main Street in August 2018. The program opened August 16th and there are three application periods. November 2018 was the first one and we just awarded those, the current one was due February 15th and those haven't been reviewed yet, and a potential third, depending on what we do in this second round, which will be July 16, 2019. A reminder that there are two funding paths for this funding stream; one is a maximum grant of \$10,000 for planning purposes and the second is an implementation grant with a maximum of \$250,000. The planning grant is a one-year grant; the implementation grant is up to three years. We did have a bucket of \$2.5 million that we budgeted for the next three years. The current requests are \$1.8 million. There are eight implementation requests and one planning request.

The staff will do a brief summary and send that out; the full grant application will go out to you along with a brief summary and then we'll have a grant review session. Here they are briefly - Bike Erie, Downtown Edinboro, Union City coming in with two applications, Green Junction Park (that's a Corry application to redo a railroad building on their main street to tie the two together), Snyder Circle (also a Corry project), ReStore West 8th Street (an Our West Bayfront project), Building a Culture of Preservation (that's what we've done with Preservation Erie in the past and that is multiple downtowns joined in one application), Sisters of St. Joseph (that's a corridors and gateways program), and as I mentioned Union City has two applications. We will review those in depth in the coming month.

Are there any questions about what I just presented?

Mr. Sample: This is just a question for me, the \$1 million that goes to the land bank, is that restricted for the first year because our funds are viewed as restricted and I didn't know how that would be handled?

Mr. Wachter: No, it is not.

Mr. Sample: So they can spend it immediately? I was just wondering.

Mr. Wachter: I don't believe that it is restricted.

Mr. Lee: I can answer that. You're right, Tim. It is not restricted.

Mr. Sample: I didn't know since our funds are restricted the first year and we've developed a process, but we're still restricted for one calendar year.

Dr. Wood: That concludes my report. Thank you.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wachter: Perry reported that we did close on the MRI with Blue Highway Capital. One of the documents that was related to that closing is a Control and Notification Agreement. When we give loans to financial entities to spend their monies in Erie County, there are not many physical assets in which to secure those loans so one way in which we do that is a Control and Notification Agreement which allows us to be able to recall funds and secure them, prior to the investment, in the event of an issue. I have that document that requires your signature. It was part of the closing package so, as part of the package which was approved, I have the original signatures. So, that would be for you.

I don't believe I have anything further. I have had computer issues this morning and am unable to sign in but I don't believe I have anything else.

OLD BUSINESS

There is no old business to report on.

NEW BUSINESS

There is no new business to report on.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sample moves to adjourn.