



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting

June 16, 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 June 16, 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. Loll, and Mr. Sample are present via Zoom. Mr. Winschel is present in person. Mr. Wachter and Dr. Wood are present in person.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 2022

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

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

There are no comments by any Board member at this time.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Mr. Barney: I just want to encourage everyone to stay cool!

PUBLIC COMMENT

There is no public present for comments.

PRESENTATIONS

There are no presentations at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Cleaver: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I reviewed the Treasurer's Report' everything looks fine to me. If there are any questions, I'll try to answer it. On the other hand, I was not available at the last meeting, and I noticed the Board approved the audit. I did have a discussion with the auditors on a couple occasions with questions I had, and they took good care of that. I just wanted to mention that for the record.

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

- b. Strategic Planning Committee:

Mr. Winschel: The Strategic Planning Committee meeting was held on June 7, 2022 at Knowledge Center. In attendance were Mr. Winschel, Mr. Cleaver, Ms. Hess, Mr. Barney, Dr. Wood, Mr. Maggio, Ms. Michali.

Two items were on the agenda: first the director gave an ARPA update, then we spent most of the meeting discussing the Erie County Investment Playbook.

ARPA

- On June 7th the Strategic Planning Committee reviewed the progress of the ARPA funding.
- We heard an update from the staff on the small business applications, which are currently coming in, the community center RFP, and talks with rural main streets.
- Next steps: staff will compile the first round of grant applications, summarize them, and open them up to the board for review.

Investment Playbook

- The Erie County Investment Playbook known as Erie Inclusive Recovery is ready to be revealed to the public
- ECGRA staff alongside the Playbook partners are conducting a government relations presentation ahead of the Playbook's release. It will be held today, 2pm at the Jefferson

Educational Society. All board members have received information about that and are encouraged to attend.

- The Playbook calls for the creation of a Nerve Center, to coordinate local funders, nonprofit civic, and government leaders in taking a collective impact approach to competitive state and federal grants.
- The committee discussed the differences between the Nerve Center and the County Executive's proposed Fusion Center. Differences in purpose were clarified. The Committee is satisfied that the two concepts are complementary in nature and not duplicative.
- The committee reviewed a job description for the Nerve Center coordinator and was informed that the Nonprofit Partnership was chosen to act as a fiduciary agent for the concept.
- The committee reviewed a funding support summary for the launch of the Investment Playbook. It contained three recommendations from the executive director:
 - ECGRA should continue to serve on the Playbook Steering Committee with the other funders of Erie County.
 - ECGRA should fund the Nerve Center at a level not to exceed \$81,500 per year for two years. \$81,500 is one third of the cost. The other partners at this same level are Erie Community Foundation and Erie Insurance. After that initial investment of \$163,000, ECGRA should review performance metrics.
 - ECGRA should fund projects in the Playbook consistent with ARPA funding goals, ECGRA's annual grant programs, and mission-related investments in support of collective impact projects.

Committee Recommendations

- The Committee recommends support of the Playbook, the Nerve Center funding, and continued involvement with the other funders of Erie County.
- Resolution No 7, 2022 reflects this committees' deliberations. It calls for ECGRA to grant \$163,000 to the Nonprofit Partnership over a period of 2 years to get the Nerve Center up and running.

That is coming out of the committee, and I would refer any questions to Dr. Wood. Thank you.

Mr. Barney: Thank you for that excellent report. Are there any questions?

- c. Update from County Council

Mr. Shank is not present to give an update.

- d. Update from County Executive's Office

Mr. Smith is not present to give an update.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Wood: Good morning, everyone. You'll see in your Executive Director's packet that the majority of time this month has been spent on the Strategic Planning Committee. As Mr. Winschel said, we talked shortly about where we are at with the ARPA funds and then more extensively about where we're at with the Erie County Investment Playbook. You'll see a four-page summary that I had prepared for you on the details of the Playbook, why it's important, how it's significant, how it's going

to operate, along with a bit of a profile on what the Nerve Center is going to accomplish. The Investment Playbook calls for this Nerve Center to get up and running. It also explains the financials behind the Nerve Center which we're going to ask you to vote on in Resolution Number 7, 2022.

As Mr. Winschel said, there is a government relations briefing today at 2:00pm at the Jefferson. Everyone on the Board is invited to attend that. We've got a phenomenal response so far; almost all of County Council – six out of seven – is going to be there, the County Executive will be there via zoom, members of the City Administration, two City Council folks, we have Representatives Bizarro and Merski attending, we do have the Chief of Staff from Senator Laughlin's office, we have the Governor's office attending, we have staffers from the U.S. Senator's office attending – including someone who is involved in an appropriations committee who wanted to sit in and understand what we're doing. That briefing will take place at 2:00 today. I'm super excited about that.

Bruce Katz, the one who we had hired along the other funders, will lead the presentation and some local leaders like myself will put some frame and some context around it as we introduce it to local officials. I think it's important to note that this Investment Playbook has not been made public yet and that this government relations briefing is an attempt to communicate with elected officials so that they understand the Playbook before it goes public. This is good government relations – no surprises, we want to have a conversation with them upfront, we want them to see the document, have their questions answered, and that they're in the know before it goes public, which will either be at the end of June or early July; we're still working on that roll-out date.

The roll-out date will include a presentation, mostly to those who contributed as stakeholders to the document itself. Anyone that was interviewed, which was well over 50 individuals and organizations, they will be a part of the meeting. Of course, the Board is invited to attend that as well and then we'll officially roll that document out, we'll have media strategy and such. Are there any questions about the Playbook? I'm super excited about it.

Mr. Barney: Perry, this event this afternoon at 2:00, how long is it going to be? A couple hours?

Dr. Wood: The presentation itself will be 45 minutes to one hour. How long the Q & A will go on is a good question; not sure. If people are really excited and ask a lot of good questions, the steering committee will be there to help answer questions. Bruce Katz and his partner, Florian, will be there via zoom as well. I would say budget 1 ½ hours for it, but if you have to leave after an hour, I completely understand.

The rest of the Director's Report you'll see information in there about how we were recognized by a couple different groups in the community, but the bulk of it is I would like you to pass Resolution Number 7, 2022 to begin our work on the Playbook Nerve Center and then Resolution Number 8, 2022 which is the final and accepted audited financial statements.

Let me comment on those real quick. When those are completed, they are distributed to a series of folks at the County in accordance with our By-Laws, it goes to County Council, the County Executive's Office, we've always sent it to the County Controller as a courtesy, and then it becomes an official artifact document in the history of ECGRA.

Mr. Cleaver: Mr. Chairman, I have a quick comment here. I misread the agenda and I thought that the audited financial statements were approved at the last meeting; I see it's up on the agenda for today's meeting. Basically, I'll comment again that I did talk to the auditors, I had a couple of questions, they answered them, and I was satisfied. I was under the impression that the Board had approved the financial audit at the last meeting. I must have read it wrong. But I just wanted to pass that along.

Mr. Barney: Thank you.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wachter has nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

There is no old business to discuss at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution Number 7, 2022 – Resolution to support the Erie County Investment Paybook Nerve Center through the Nonprofit Partnership as one of three community partners for a period of two years not to exceed \$163,000

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Mr. Sample moves to accept the resolution. Mr. Winschel seconds the motion. There is no further discussion of the resolution. Motion carries 6-0.

- b. Resolution Number 8, 2022 – Resolution to accept the 2021-22 audited financial statements

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Mr. Cleaver moves to accept the resolution. Mr. Winschel seconds the motion. There is no further discussion of the resolution. Motion carries 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sample moves to adjourn. Mr. DiPaolo seconds the motion.