



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting

June 17, 2021

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 17, 2021 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, and Ms. Loll are present via Zoom. Mr. DiPaolo, Mr. Paris and Mr. Sample are present in person. Mr. Wachter, Mr. Lee are present via Zoom, and Dr. Wood is present in person.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 2021

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

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

There are no comments at this time.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Mr. Barney: I would like to thank everyone for putting forth the effort to make our meetings work during this time of COVID. I know it has been a challenge, so I thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There is no public present for comments.

PRESENTATIONS

- a. Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania – Erika Berlin

Dr. Wood: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our first presenter that is here today is Erika Berlin. Erika is with the Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania, commonly known as the Film Office. We have a Pilot Project in front of you for your review today and Erika is going to give you a brief presentation on the contents of that pilot project. I will turn it over to you, Erika.

Ms. Berlin: Good morning, everyone. I want to thank the Board for having me here today; I know I only have a few minutes for my presentation. I'm Erika Berlin and I'm here to speak on behalf of the Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania. We are a nonprofit organization, and like Perry said, today I am speaking on behalf of the Greater Erie Film Office, which is actually a program of the Film Society. If you don't mind, I'm going to share my screen.

I submitted the Pilot grant request and Perry so generously invited me to do so after I had bothered him for some time. This is a phase 2 of the Film Industry Regional Expansion. ECGRA supported our grant request to create a website, filmerie.com; that was the first step for us. We are attracting filmmakers to our region, and we are doing that because we are living in a State that provides incentive to filmmakers with a generous film tax credit. But our State is also very attractive to filmmakers because we are very unique, especially here in Erie County.

Mostly Pittsburgh and Philadelphia are cities that we think of when it comes to filmmaking, but Erie County is the only county that has a coastline in our State. We have generous resources with our universities, creating those resources, and a lot of filmmaking talent that you may not think of. So, our county is very marketable to filmmakers, with a low cost of living and let's face it, a low cost of resources.

Our Pennsylvania film tax credit, 25% of a budget is available for tax credit if 60% of that budget is spent in the State. A lot of films are made here, and you wouldn't believe it but actually 50% of those tax credits are awarded to film budgets of \$1 million or less. So, those are the films that we are targeting here. We are not making \$8 million films here; we're making films with budgets of \$1 million or less. Actually, those that have been successful have been \$300,000 - \$500,000 films.

I have been asked a lot if the film tax credit is awarded by the State, then Pittsburgh gets 50% and Philadelphia gets 50%. That's not true. It is awarded on a first come, first-served basis.

A film tax credit requires some lobbying, some assistance and a film office is actually necessary to help films get that assistance to help them work through the application, to help

them go to the State film office to be able to say, "We need to help this film get their tax credit." So, the film office is really helpful for that local film production to get that tax credit.

Right now, there is a lobby going on to the State to increase that cap from \$70,000, which is what it is currently, to \$120,000 because we have to compete with states like Georgia which has an uncapped film tax credit. One of the interesting things about Georgia is it literally didn't have a tax credit before, but it has increased and the investment in the state of Georgia has increased where someone like Tyler Perry has built soundstages and now, they have a whole industry that is built up in that state just because of the tax credit over that past 15 years. So, an industry can build an estate outside of California just because of investment.

That's not necessarily happening yet in Erie County, but we know that investment in a county just means that you can build studios, you can train people to do work, and that is a draw for filmmakers. That actually empowers people in that county to start projects and to invest in projects. It's all connected to each other to create films and to build an industry, and ultimately to create jobs. We have a very attractive county.

You probably have heard that Undercover Billionaire happened here two years ago. Well, they came back to our city this past fall; the Undercover Comeback City was back again! The Greater Erie Film Office had a very important role in the first season and a very important role in the second season. We actually helped bring them here and keep them here. Carl Buelle actually gave us another wonderful endorsement, and I wanted to give you some statistics of how we participated in this second season.

They hired six people locally and for 3 ½ months, they rented two floors of a local hotel, they rented one private dwelling, and they rented local equipment from a local production company throughout their entire production. And that was just one local production. If we keep attracting, not just television shows because this was a unique experience, but with proper marketing, we can attract filmmakers and \$300,000 budgets, \$750,000 budgets, or \$1 million budgets – if we have two or three of these coming through with two-to-three-month productions, this is the kind of thing that they will do. They are not necessarily going to come in for three or four days; they may come in for several months and this is what they will be doing.

We have had two studies that were done in the past five years that have only scraped the surface. The Film Society actually went to the Data Center at the Chamber, and they did a brief look at what a film budget would look like, and they came up with a 2.5 multiplier, but there is so much more that we need to do. If you read the grant proposal, you'll see that an economic impact study requires so much more to look at. The Erie Forward study that they also conducted, they projected that there would be a growth in the film industry.

Again, there are so many objectives to hit in an economic impact study, so what we want to do is a report that quantifies the impact of the film industry and develops the scenarios of that projected growth. We want to be interviewing the people working locally. The Film Office knows all of these people and these resources because we are the ones that need to recommend those resources when films are coming here and asking who they need to call for sound engineers, camera operators, etc. We know these people. If someone comes in from the outside, for example Garner Economics, they didn't interview those people; they didn't know what their future ideas were; they didn't know what their projects were. This study is going to be talking to those folks.

Learning from other cities like Erie, the next step that the Data Center was going to look at that we didn't have any money to fund was looking into cities like Erie across the country and figuring what they have done what we could do. It's actually not that easy to do because I think there are about five cities that Erie is compared to when their economic studies are done, and I think that Green Bay, WI is one and Kalamazoo, MI is another. But

none of those have film offices and none of those states have incentive programs like we do. So, it takes a little more investigation to figure out who we need to compare ourselves to.

Then there is looking at the actual economic impact and doing an analysis using that plan and doing the in-depth analysis that needs to happen. All of those things are part of what we need to do with this economic impact study that this grant would be funding. The outcome would then be this final report that we can take to potential funders, that we can take to the State, that we can lobby with because every year we need to get some funding that is potentially going to other State film offices that supports the basic staff and the basic marketing efforts and the basic arts that can give the staff the ability to help with the filing for the tax credits. That's an important piece.

According to the AFCL, which is the Association of Film Commissioners International, film offices cannot accept payments for what they do. A film office doesn't say, "Yeah, we can help you, but you have to pay us." Film offices do not do that; it is a free service.

A lot of film offices work through the local tourism office, and prior to the Film Office being formed, Visit Erie was receiving all the requests and they really were not able to support those requests and they handed them off to the Film Society because we were the ones who had the connections in the community, and we have been doing that ever since 2013. We need to continue that work, but we also need to work in collaboration with Visit Erie and some of those things are future goals for us. The collateral to market our city is an important piece of why we need to fund the Film Office.

With COVID, everyone has been virtual so taking this report to local funders and state funders, everyone is excited to get back to work. So, taking on this momentum of not only just funding, but filmmakers in general, everyone is excited to get back to work and get their projects going again after everything has been shut down.

But there is a big picture here. The arts community here in Erie is very much thriving and filmmaking is a part of that. Education is very important too. In terms of jobs, you have to educate people to be filmmakers. It's not just in front of the camera and creative people who are writing scripts. It's people behind the camera and people being sound engineers and the postproduction. It's people holding mics and people operating cameras, and it's also people building sets. You're using carpenters and electricians; you have to use cables and hook things up to generators.

Dr. Wood: I just want to give you a quick time check; we're at 11 ½ minutes.

Ms. Berlin: Okay. Let me close with this. This young man is Alex Staley; he did an education program with the Film Society and now, years later, he has submitted a film to a local film festival. He is a really great success story for us. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today; my apologies for going over time. Thank you, again.

Dr. Wood: Great job. Let's turn it over to the Board for any questions.

Mr. Lee: Thank you, Dr. Wood, and thank you, Erika, for your presentation. So, Erika, what are you looking for ECGRA to do as far as from the financial aspect? Are looking to us to invest in the project as far as for this economic study, and if so, what amount are you looking for at this time?

Ms. Berlin: I am looking for \$15,000 to fund half of the economic impact study. I have a commitment from Kathy Dahlkemper with the County to fund \$10,000 of it and another

commitment from Visit Erie to fund \$2,500. So that brings the total to \$27,500 for the cost of the impact study.

Mr. Lee: Okay. The second question I have, Erika, how soon are you looking to have this study done? What's the timeline on it?

Ms. Berlin: We want to conduct the study immediately. We will be working with Parker Philips, who will be conducting the study, they are ready to do the study immediately and they can complete it in 100 days they believe. In terms of payment for the study, they can work with us in terms of when that occurs. They know that their payment is subject to when we receive payment. We want to have the study done as soon as possible because we know that we will get some other funding from the County to get started on a lot of this work that we would like to get done. That will happen sometime this fall, so we want to get the study done as soon as possible.

Mr. Lee: Thank you, Erika.

Ms. Berlin: You're welcome.

Dr. Wood: Erika, you mentioned peer market research, comparing us to other cities, and how that was difficult because many communities our size don't have film offices. Have you determined what communities you will compare us to?

Ms. Berlin: I'm sorry, did you say have we determined what cities we will be compared to?

Dr. Wood: Yes, what communities you can compare with Erie.

Ms. Berlin: Well, that's part of the research. We've already been looking. We've looked in Indiana because Indiana had an interesting case because they hired a film commissioner for the State from California. They established a film program at the State level, but they could not attract enough films and they had to cancel their program after a few years. At the legislative level they gave it a shot and they had to cancel it.

Dr. Wood: Erika, was that program a combination of tax credits and film office assistance?

Ms. Berlin: It was, and they're still trying to do it, but they had to reduce their tax credit program. We tried to compare to some of those cities, and we actually reached out to - I think it was Evansville, IN - because that was one of the cities that was on the list of who we compare ourselves to according to the Data Center. It wasn't successful there, but it's really hard to compare because Pennsylvania has such a different tax credit system.

Dr. Wood: (inaudible)

Ms. Berlin: It's really hard to hear you, Perry.

Dr. Wood: Sorry. So, it's higher incentives and it's more aggressive in the State of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Berlin: Absolutely. And I think Pennsylvania just has a better reputation and Pennsylvania has more resources in general. Indiana is a very rural state and it's just not working as hard to attract; it just doesn't have the same kind of marketing effort. Pennsylvania has a stronger reputation. I think that the State Film Office does a decent job, but one of the things that I'm interested in within this study is – within the grant request it details this a little bit – but, there is an opportunity for a stronger relationship between the Erie Film Office and Pittsburgh because some of the opportunities for the Film Office here and the needs of the films in Pittsburgh, we can meet the needs of some of the films that are actually shooting in Pittsburgh because we have things that Pittsburgh doesn't. So, some of the films going to Pittsburgh could actually be recommended to come here instead. They serve a lot of really big productions, but we have a lot of things that Pittsburgh doesn't. We are looking at building a stronger relationship with Pittsburgh.

Dr. Wood: Thank you. Are there any other questions from Board members? We have time for one more question. Hearing none, thank you very much, Erika. You did a great job.

Ms. Berlin: Thank you so much; and again, I'm sorry for going over time. I appreciate your time this morning.

Dr. Wood: Thanks for being with us. Now, let's turn it over to our auditors.

b. Maher Duessel – Michelle Bryan, Amanda Jaros

Ms. Bryan: Good morning. I'm Michelle Bryan and I serve as one of the partners for Maher Duessel CPAs. With me today is Amanda Jaros, who serves as one of the supervisors who was involved in your audit. I am the Engagement Quality Control partner; your actual audit partner was unable to attend the meeting.

I'm going to walk you through the Communication to Those Charged with Governance and then I will turn things over to Amanda to review the financial statements. If anyone has any questions throughout, feel free to chime in or we can take them at the end.

Our responsibility under Generally Accepted Accounting Standards is to issue an opinion on the financial statements. They are management's financial statements and management is responsible for the adoption of the Significant Accounting Policies within the Notes. The Significant Accounting Policies are described in Note 2 of your financial statements. There were no new Notes adopted in the current year, no GASB's that were required to be adopted that affected the Authority, so you'll see that information found in Note 2 to be very consistent with what it has been in the prior years.

Your statements do include estimates; all accrual-based statements do include some matters of estimates on things like receivables and payables. You do have one estimate that is more sensitive and that relates to the Allowance for Uncollectible Notes Receivable. That estimate is based upon management's evaluation of the current Note portfolio, current economic conditions, and other factors within your judgement. So, that collectability, that is something that is an estimate.

Your Disclosures and Statements are considered neutral, consistent, and clear. The most significant disclosures in your Footnotes include the one discussing the Irrevocable Gifts to the Erie Community Foundation; that's the Lead Asset Endowment Fund that is held by the Authority. That is not recorded on your financial statements because it is under the variance power of the Erie Community Foundation.

The Notes Receivable Footnote, that's Note 6, that details out each of the Notes Receivable that is held by the Authority, who they are to, and the amounts included on the statements regarding that.

There is also a Footnote on COVID-19 and the uncertainty around the pandemic and how we don't know what the future impact of federal and state legislation will have on the fundings that come both to the Authority and to all organizations.

We had no difficulties in performing the audit. There were no corrected or uncorrected misstatements. This is always important for the Board to understand because what it means is that throughout the year, the statements that you are getting are accurate and you don't need the auditors to come in at year end and make material adjustments to your statements in order that they are in accordance with GAAS. That is always something that is important for management to know that your auditors aren't coming in and making a lot of adjustments at year end.

We had no disagreements with management. These are still draft statements. We will obtain representation before they are issued. There was no consultation with other independent accountants and there were no issues discussed regarding our retention as auditors.

I'm going to turn it over to Amanda for the statements themselves and again, if there are any questions, chime in at any point.

Ms. Jaros: Good morning. As Michelle mentioned, my name is Amanda Jaros; I'm the supervisor on the audit this year so I worked directly with Tammi and Perry, and we just want to thank them for their cooperation with the audit. It went very smoothly, so we appreciate that.

I'm just going to go over a couple slides here of the financial statements. Our job as auditors is to express an opinion on the financial statements. It is management's responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control as well as the fair presentation of the financial statements. We did issue an unmodified opinion; that is the highest-level opinion that we can issue for an audit, which is great.

This next page is a summary of your financial statements. At year-end, you are sitting at cash at approximately \$10.1 million, with some prepaid expenses of approximately \$7,000, and Notes Receivable of \$6.1 million. This leaves you at a Net Position as Restricted at \$16.2 million. It did increase slightly from last year and in the next page we will go over that.

This is your summary statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position, which is also like an income statement. You can see here that the gaming revenue is pretty consistent with the previous year. You will see that there is an increase this year with the COVID-19 revenue that was previously not received, as well as additional contributions of \$25,000. Interest from Notes Receivable was also consistent with the prior year. Due to the COVID-19 revenue, that did cause an increase in your operating revenue of approximately \$300,000.

You have operating expenses, which is primarily the grants awarded that is at \$3.9 million. That is a bit of an increase from last year as well due to that additional funding that was received. The other operating expenses shown total approximately \$620,000. That is a change in your net position from last year of about \$365,000, which again is due to the increase in operating revenue.

Mr. Lee: Amanda, this is Gary Lee. I have a couple basic questions before we move on. The COVID-19 revenue of \$250,000, where is that coming from? And also, the contribution of \$25,000?

Ms. Jaros: The COVID-19 revenue came directly from Erie County, and the contribution came from – I'll have to stop sharing my screen so I can look it up – the contribution came from Bliley, that they set aside for a contingency for donating to entities that were doing business in regards to a face shield project. Those funds went to the Immediate Human Relief Fund.

Mr. Lee: Okay. Thank you.

Ms. Jaros: You're welcome. That is actually the end of our presentation at this time.

Dr. Wood: Thank you very much, Michelle and Amanda. From a Board perspective, this is the draft audit, and everybody has a copy of it. You have now seen a presentation from the auditors themselves, so this is your chance to ask any questions. Of course, if you have questions later, you can always follow up either directly with the auditors or with the staff and we can compile those questions and give them to the auditors.

Typically, our process is the Board is presented with the information and then at the July Board Meeting, we will see a final copy and the Board will pass it as a resolution. This is really important because we are mandated to perform one of these audits by Erie County government and then once the Board has passed it, we will turn the audit in to all the appropriate authorities at Erie County to become a permanent record.

Does anyone have any questions at this time?

Mr. Cleaver: Perry, I just wanted to go on record and say that I had a brief conversation with the auditors and our discussion boiled down to no findings. I wanted to make mention that I did touch base with Amanda in reference to the presentation.

Dr. Wood: That's a great point. Thank you, Mr. Cleaver. Part of our process, is of course, the Treasurer as a representative of the Board, interacts directly with the auditors, they have a conversation, although I don't know what that is like because the staff is not a part of it. That is part of the checks and balances. Thank you for bringing that up, Mr. Cleaver.

If you don't have questions at this time, but they do come up, don't hesitate to reach out to us or the auditors directly and we will get all of your questions answered. Thank you, Michelle and Amada for being here with us today.

Ms. Bryan: Thank you very much for your time today. We always appreciate Board interaction.

Mr. Barney: Thank you for the presentation. As Dr. Wood mentioned, if anyone on the Board does have a question later, please feel free to contact the auditors so when we meet in July, we will be able to move right along.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Cleaver: I reviewed the financial report with Dr. Wood and found no problems. I will let him continue with the expenses.

Mr. Sample makes a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. 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. Paris: We have not met so there is nothing to report.

Mr. Barney: I was informed that we will need to get together prior to the July Board meeting, so Board members, look out for the invite. Will we be meeting in person, Dr. Wood?

Dr. Wood: No, we can do that over Zoom.

c. Update from County Council: Mr. Anderson is not present to give an update.

d. Update from County Executive's Office: Mr. Lee: Before I give my remarks, it's great to see Mr. Tim Wachter back. Tim, you were in our prayers and thoughts. We are glad to see you back. You're looking great!

I am going to be brief. The Summer Jobs Program is up and running. We appreciate the investment by ECGRA. We have about 108 students at this time participating in the program and 52 employers. The breakdown of the 52 employers is there are 40 of them returning and we have 12 new ones; 26 of them are inside the City of Erie and 26 of them are outside the City of Erie, which is a great balance. There are 19 nonprofits and 33 for-profit. These are great numbers, and we are looking forward to an exciting year.

Last year was the first year we had done things virtual as far as orientation. They are doing a virtual orientation this year and are working very closely with the employers to make sure they are adhering to the CDC guidelines as it pertains to COVID-19. Our Health Department was a part of the orientation to explain and to share the expectations as they go on these worksites. We are very excited. Are there any questions about the Summer Jobs & More Program for this year?

Mr. Barney: What is their starting rate this year?

Mr. Lee: Thank you, Mr. Barney. Minimum wage is \$7.25. Last year, because of COVID-19, we raised the rate to \$8.25. We decided to keep it at \$8.25 this year. That is really good because every dollar counts, especially for young men and women, and we are very pleased with that. Thank you for bringing that question up, Mr. Barney.

If there are no further questions, that concludes my report, Mr. Chairman.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Wood: Good morning, everyone. There is an Executive Director's Report in your packet. You can see there that first quarter revenue for the year did come in – approximately \$332,000. That is right on track with where we have been at in the past, especially since 2019 when the State started prorating our distribution at a different level. You can compare that to 2016 when we got \$271,000, and you can see that we're ahead of the ballgame. That's steady, it's flowing, and it's to be expected.

There is a summary of Municipal Collaboration projects that are in the packet that the staff conducted. There were only four projects that came in and I think that's reflective of the times we are in, but all four are good projects and the staff is recommending them to you for funding today. There is a nice letter from the Gertrude Barber Center, thanking us for our ongoing support and that is followed by the usual newspaper clippings.

I'll wrap it up by saying that I would like the Board to think about the fact that we are in unprecedented times when it comes to grant dollars. The County has \$50 million on the way from the federal government, the City has \$70 million, the School Districts all have huge multi-million-dollar

funds on their way in. How this affects ECGRA and the role we play in it is still being discussed by many policy makers. Certainly, as a Board of Directors, we ought to be thinking about it and part of the discussion today with New Localism Associates is discussing the convening role that we play since we have constant contact with economic development agencies, nonprofits, and municipal governments. Does anyone have any questions for me?

Mr. Lee: I have a question, Dr. Wood. Can you please provide the Board an update – I know that you were playing a key role with County Council as far as the Task Force that the Chairperson had put together. Can you just provide us an update as far as how that is going and what is happening with that particular Task Force?

Dr. Wood: Mr. Lee is referencing the COVID-19 Revitalization Task Force; I'll abbreviate it and call it that. That was convened by County Council. ECGRA was asked to participate in that, and we ended up playing basically a staffing and support role as well as a facilitation role. That primarily involved listening sessions; those listening sessions ended last month. The next step is for a report to be generated. Dr. Judy Lynch volunteered to write the report based on her analysis of those listening sessions, so we are very excited about that. We are waiting to see a draft copy of that report and then the next step would be for that draft report to be published as a useful document for policy makers.

Mr. Lee: Thank you, Dr. Wood.

Dr. Wood: Are there any other questions for me?

Mr. Barney: Thank you, Dr. Wood.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wachter: Thank you, Mr. Barney. I do have a few comments for you all this morning, the first of which is with respect to the Film Office and the Film Tax Credit. I used to have some involvement with that back in my days with the Commonwealth. One question that often came up was adult-oriented films. I can assure you that they are not eligible for the Film Tax Credit. In fact, there is someone who, as part of their job, is to read every script and make sure that they are not adult in nature. I just wanted you to know that we wouldn't have to worry about that in partnering with that group.

Secondly, on a personal front, I'd like to thank you all for your thoughts and your well wishes during my recovery and the space that the Gaming Authority, as well as all my clients, gave me to recover. If someone ever gives you the option between having an unplanned, fairly emergent open-heart surgery and chocolate cake, I assure you that you should take the cake. Thank you.

OLD BUSINESS

There is no Old Business to cover at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution Number 5, 2021 – Resolution to enter into agreements with four (4) entities as the recipients of the 2021 Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grant

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Mr. DiPaolo makes a motion to adopt the resolution. Mr. Paris seconds the motion. There is no discussion of the resolution. Motion carries 5-0-1, with Mr. Sample abstaining.

- b. Resolution Number 6, 2021 – Resolution to enter into agreement with the Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania to fund a Pilot Project for an Economic Impact Study of the Film Industry Regional Expansion

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Mr. Sample makes a motion to accept the resolution. Mr. Paris seconds the motion.

Mr. Cleaver: Mr. Chairman, I understood that young lady was looking for \$16,000. Am I looking at it correctly here, because it says \$15,000?

Mr. Barney: It says \$15,000, but I do have a question on that. The other portions she mentioned does not add up to \$15,000.

Dr. Wood: Erika excluded the fact that the Film Society itself will be putting in \$2,500.

Mr. Barney: Thank you. I just wanted that to be on record because she went to \$27,500.

Dr. Wood: That is what she says in the formal application.

There is no further discussion of the resolution. Motion carries 6-0.

- c. Resolution Number 7, 2021 – Resolution to renew the existing lease for one (1) year

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

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

- d. Resolution Number 8, 2021 – Resolution to enter into an agreement with New Localism Associates

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Mr. Sample: I make a motion to accept the resolution. Those are the three big players that have been involved since the beginning. I'm assuming this is something that Erie County needs; we need help to focus our efforts.

Mr. Paris seconds the motion.

Mr. Lee: Dr. Wood, I have a question. What would be the timeline for that project? Is there some timeline as far as working with New Localism Associates?

Dr. Wood: We already have plans to get it going, so it will start next week. I think the first thing will be to convene the City of Erie's business roundtable to meet with Dr. Katz. He also has something on the books to meet with both the Mayor and the County Executive. In fact, he has already had one conversation with the County Executive.

Mr. Lee: I think it's a great initiative. I don't have all the details on it, but Bruce Katz is, as we know, is a national and international figure so I think it's going to be great for our community. Thank you, Dr. Wood.

There is no further discussion of the resolution. Motion carries 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cleaver moves to adjourn.