



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting

December 21, 2023

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 December 21, 2023 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 at 8:33 am.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Barney is present in person. Mr. Cleaver, Ms. Hess, Ms. Loll, and Mr. Winschel are present via zoom. Mr. Wachter is present via zoom. Dr. Wood is present in person.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Winschel seconds the motion. There is no discussion of the agenda. Motion carries 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 2023

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Winschel seconds the motion. There is no discussion of the minutes. Motion carries 5-0.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Barney: At this time, are there any directors who have any comments?

Ms. Loll: I do. Should I go first?

Mr. Barney: Yes, go ahead.

Ms. Loll: First of all, that last meeting was a fiasco. And I didn't receive any notification till 8:36 – that's six minutes after the meeting was supposed to start. And also too, I don't think we need to be legally putting - we're not legally putting a late add-ons to the agenda. I think we need to do that and have the agenda completely ready when it's handed out to the board members. And then also too, I'd like to have my information on Monday before the meeting.

Mr. Barney: So noted, Carol. Any other Directors have any comments at this time?

Mr. Cleaver: Let me ask a question here. Don't you get an email with the agenda and minutes and the whole ball of wax, Carol?

Ms. Loll: Of course. The time before in November, I got it the day before. And then of course we all got it the day before in December, but I never got a notification of any sort until 8:36.

Mr. Cleaver: Okay.

Ms. Loll: I did call Tim's phone to try to get an answer as to whether this was a legal thing to wait this long. And I couldn't get a hold of him until the next morning after the meeting was canceled. So, I did get my answer as to the fact that it was cancelled. But I think the late information needs to be handed out earlier too, because of the fact that I think that that would fall under the same category as not receiving any information till the day before the meeting. And I also didn't get any information as to the cancellation; I looked in my spam, I looked everywhere. I did not get a notification that the meeting was canceled.

Mr. Barney: So noted, Carol. Thank you. Any other Directors have any comments?

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Mr. Barney: On a better note, I just like to wish everyone Happy Holidays. If some of you have to get off before we end, I just want to let you know it's been a pleasure working with you throughout this year. And I wish everyone and your families Happy Holidays. Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There are no members of the public present, so there are no public comments at this time.

PRESENTATIONS

There are no presentations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Cleaver: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too would like to wish everybody a Happy Holiday. It's been nice working with everybody this past year; we'll see what next year holds. In reference to the Treasurer's Report, I reviewed everything; the expenses are fine. I can't see anything that caught my eye. If any member has anything to say or ask, I think we'll be able to answer the questions. At least I may not but somebody will. And other than that, end of report.

Mr. Winschel makes a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Mr. Cleaver seconds the motion. There are no questions or discussion of the Treasurer's Report. Motion carries 5-0.

- b. Strategic Planning Committee

There was no meeting held, therefore there is nothing to report.

- c. Update from County Council

Mr. Shank is not present, so there is nothing to report at this time.

- d. Update from County Executive's Office

Mr. Smith is not present, so there is nothing to report at this time.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Wood: Good morning, everyone. Just wanted to also say Happy Holidays, especially Happy Holidays to Tim's blazer, which is damn near holiday offensive. Not sure what to make of that.

Okay, so briefly, we're wrapping the year up here, and we're looking forward to the first quarter of 2024. We're going to have a busy quarter. My packet contains some end-of-year thank you letters from organizations that received funding, but I wanted you to kind of start wrapping your head around what January, February, and March might look like. We do have a grant review probably the second week of January; we'll be getting a notification out for scheduling to you. We have eight Anchor Building grants, 15 Parks, Fields, and Trails; we're still combing through those in the office.

The second week of February we're going to look at doing a joint presentation with Erie Community Foundation like we did a couple of months ago on Infinite Erie's Neighborhood Renewal strategy. And the good news there is we've got Erie Insurance to join us, so they're also interested in putting money into these projects. We are very excited about this; it takes years to get funders to the point where they can get on the same page, their boards can get on the same page, and start working together. So, I give you guys a lot of credit for that – you got us to this point where we can get back to doing transformative type grants with those other funders. And adding Erie Insurance is really exciting too, as a huge funder in town. I'm hoping we can continue to add more funders in town because as you know, the more you add, the more complexity. So, that's great news.

Then in March, our Special Events will be going around for your approval. And we'll also get an update on where the Fly Erie Fund is at this point in time. I'm also told that the EMS report will be coming out in the first quarter; that's the one that Strategy Solutions is doing for Erie County government. So, we're looking forward to getting a ganders at that community engagement effort.

I'll pause there; does anyone have any questions about those projects? How about any other projects that are outstanding or ongoing?

Mr. Cleaver: Perry, when you mentioned the EMS report – what's that coming from, the County Executive or who?

Dr. Wood: Yeah, the Administration is overseeing that, and they hired Strategy Solutions to do that report. I'm not exactly sure what's being measured. We never saw the scope of that report. But I think Doug has talked about it several times when he's been on here. So, we're excited to finally see in writing where that lands.

Mr. Cleaver: We haven't been really updated other than down at Harrisburg, some legislation. I don't know all that stuff, but we'll cross that bridge when we get to it.

Dr. Wood: Good point. Okay, any other questions for your Director? Okay, folks, thanks a lot. I would just like to end my report by saying I really appreciate all the time you guys put into ECGRA – the committee meetings, the board meetings, your thoughtful consideration, the stuff you have to read, the grant reviews you come to. So, thank you very much. God bless and Happy New Year.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wachter: Well, I don't often blame things on my children, but I will lay the blame for this sport coat clearly with my children; but I do wish you all Merry Christmas.

I have reviewed with Dr. Wood and Tammi the Sunshine Law obligation to have it posted. We did have technical difficulties last time with the meeting which is why the meeting had to be canceled and why it couldn't be posted. But we will ensure compliance in the future. Have a great Christmas everybody.

Mr. Cleaver: Tim, can I ask you a question? I thought when you post the meetings, don't you post them all at one time at the beginning of the year and that's considered okay under the Sunshine Law?

Mr. Wachter: Whitey, that's a good question. So, that's just the advertising but there was an amendment called Act 65 from about a year and a half ago. And what that requires is that the agenda be posted on your website and then printed and physically posted at your office and the location of the meeting at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

And we are unable to take any new items or any items of new business that are not on the agenda - we're no longer allowed to amend the agenda, unless it's an item that addresses an emergency and we don't really have emergencies or an item that is de minimis and does not require the expenditure of any money. So given those limited categories, we're not going to be able to really amend the agenda either going forward.

Mr. Cleaver: Who made these changes?

Mr. Wachter: That would be your Pennsylvania legislature. And the interpretation regarding the ability to amend the agenda was recently made by the Commonwealth Court. Now, I will say that the limitation on the ability to amend the agenda is likely going to be appealed to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court as that does not appear to have been the intent of the legislature when they adopted the law. But it's a new law and it's an evolving area.

Mr. Cleaver: Okay, thank you.

Mr. Winschel: Tim and Perry and Dale, I think, kind of reinforcing what Carol said, it would be good if we could get the agenda out by Monday. Then that way if we did have some things that we needed changed or asked to be added, that would give you plenty of time to change the agenda before that 24-hour requirement. So, rather than reacting afterwards, if we get the agenda out earlier, then that way, we can see it if we have any questions or what needs to be changed or amend the agenda, we have plenty of time to do it before that 24 hour time limitation kicks in before the official meeting.

Dr. Wood: Sounds good.

OLD BUSINESS

There is no Old Business to discuss at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution Number 18, 2023 – Resolution to Direct the Erie Community Foundation to Distribute Funds to the Erie County Lead Assets

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to adopt the resolution. Ms. Hess seconds the motion. There is no discussion or questions of the resolution. Motion carries 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Barney: I wanted to ask are there any directors who have any comments at this time? Hearing none, can I get a motion to . . . ? Wait, I got a comment once again. Happy Holidays. Okay. Now can I get a motion to adjourn?

Mr. Cleaver moves to adjourn. Mr. Hess seconds the motion. Meeting is adjourned at 8:48 am.