

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

March 15, 2023

The meeting took place at the Avalon Borough Building (640 California Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202) and was also broadcast and recorded via Zoom and made available on the QVCOG website at the conclusion of the proceedings.

President Carrier called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken.

The following members were in attendance:

Aleppo:	Glen Osborne: Barbara Carrier
Avalon:	Glenfield:
Bell Acres: Carmee Murphy-Horton*	Haysville: Amy Paff*
Bellevue: Sabreena Miller*	Kilbuck: Jean-Sebastien Valois
Ben Avon: Tavia Washington*	Leet: Martin McDaniel*
Edgeworth:	Leetsdale:
Emsworth:	Sewickley: Julie Barnes
Sewickley Heights:	

*Attended the meeting via Zoom.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of February 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Valois moved to approve the February 15, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of February Financial Reports, Payroll, and Unpaid Bills:

Subsequently, Ms. Paff moved to approve the February financial reports, unpaid bills, and employee payrolls as presented. Mr. Valois seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

President's Report:

President Carrier stated her goal of integrating more sustainable initiatives including expanding the region's recycling capacity. She cited the recent legislative ban on plastic bags within the city of Pittsburgh. A discussion regarding a similar initiative within QVCOG member communities ensued. Ms. Murphy-Horton cited the formation of Bell Acres Borough's Environmental Advisory Council (EAC). She also noted her community's involvement with the Big Sewickley Creek Watershed Association. Ms. Barnes noted that she was set to meet with Mr. Dan Brown of PennEnvironment in the

coming weeks. She highlighted that Mr. Brown was involved with the City of Pittsburgh's plastic bag ban.

Route 65 Report:

Ms. Barnes reported that since the February 15th Board meeting she along with President Carrier and Executive Director Connors had met with both the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) and Michael Baker International (MBI) to discuss the continuation of the Route 65 Corridor Strategic Planning Guide. She provided various details regarding the meetings and noted her desire to see the formation of an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement between QVCOG member communities for the continued evaluation of Route 65.

CDBG Status Report:

Executive Director Connors provided brief updates concerning all active CDBG projects.

Executive Director's Report:

Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Grant Award – Executive Director Connors reported that \$1.4 million in federal funding was awarded to the City of Pittsburgh and the Manchester Citizens Corporation from the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Reconnecting Communities Pilot grant program, created by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. He stated that the project will study ways to reunite the Manchester and Chateau neighborhoods while keeping those who travel on PA-65 safe and connected. He highlighted that according to the project's application, "Construction of Route 65 "severed these neighborhoods, inflicting lasting detrimental effects on the community." He cited that the QVCOG provided a letter of support for the project's application and hopes to emulate the project's success in its continuing evaluation of the Route 65 corridor.

Transportation Survey – Executive Director Connors reported that PennDOT and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) are seeking public input for its 2025 12-year Transportation Program Update. He stated that interested parties are encouraged to share their transportation priorities, including specific infrastructure improvements for our region (i.e. Route 65). He highlighted that the survey may be completed digitally or by requesting a paper copy.

LGA Municipal Intern Program Awards – Executive Director Connors reported that a total of three QVCOG member communities were selected as host sites for the Local Government Academy's (LGA) 2023 Municipal Intern Program (MIP). The aforementioned communities and projects can be found below:

- Avalon Borough - Blighted Property and Code Enforcement Initiative;
- Edgeworth Borough - Sidewalk Repair Project; and
- Leetsdale Borough - Community Revitalization Project

May Mart/Tree Pittsburgh Adoption Event – Executive Director Connors reported that the Sewickley Civic Garden Council will be partnering with Tree Pittsburgh during its May Mart event to deliver trees to residents of Quaker Valley COG member communities as well as the general public. He cited that interested participants may register for a tree by visiting treepittsburgh.org. He noted the giveaway would take

place during May Mart on Saturday, May 13, 2023, between 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM, next to KeyBank (400 Broad Street, Sewickley, PA).

New Business:

Guest Speaker - Ms. Sara Innamorato - Candidate for Allegheny County Executive:

State Representative Sara Innamorato (PA House District 21) came before the Board via Zoom to introduce herself as a candidate for the Democratic Party's nomination for Allegheny County Executive. She discussed her background and outlined various initiatives that she would pursue if she were to be elected to the post. The Board thanked Ms. Innamorato for her time and appearance.

Consideration of a Service Proposal Submitted by Michael Baker International:

Executive Director Connors stated that in an effort to build upon the Strategic Design Guide for the Route 65 corridor (finalized and presented January 2022) the QVCOG has engaged in discussions with Michael Baker International (MBI). He noted that MBI was the engineering firm who completed the aforementioned Design Guide. He highlighted that since the Design Guide's finalization, the QVCOG's Executive Committee has met with representatives from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC), PennDOT District 11, and PennDOT CONNECTS. He noted that while these meetings have been informative, it is the opinion of the QVCOG's Executive Committee that the organization needs technical assistance in moving any initiative(s) regarding Route 65 forward.

He continued by outlining a proposal provided by MBI in an effort to better understand the costs associated with the construction of a collaborative document/agreement for all 15 QVCOG member municipalities to consider. He summarized the goal of the collaboration would be to utilize MBI's technical expertise to help identify attainable strategic goals regarding Route 65 (i.e. safety, sustainability, infrastructure enhancements, etc.). He stated that the goals would be both short-term as well as long-term. He concluded by stating the purpose of the final document would not be to request funding from member communities, but rather to solidify a shared commitment to the continued evaluation of Route 65. He cited that should the MBI proposal be approved by the QVCOG's Board of Delegates, the costs would be paid from the organization's capital fund.

After some discussion, Mr. Valois moved to approve a technical assistance agreement between the QVCOG and Michael Baker International for the formation of a Route 65 strategic guidance summary and agreement for each member community to consider. He highlighted that the cost of the agreement shall not exceed \$2,500.00. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Railroad Safety Discussion:

Ms. Paff reported that Haysville Borough, Glenfield Borough, and Glen Osborne Borough would be convening on March 16th for an emergency meeting on the topic of Norfolk Southern's rail lines which run through all three municipalities. She cited that

on multiple occasions, trains have stopped on the tracks which has resulted in sections of the communities being cut off from emergency service access. Mr. Valois noted the value in bringing all of the region's emergency management coordinators together for an in-person meeting.

Ms. Barnes stated that in the wake of recent national railroad incidents, specifically the East Palestine, Ohio derailment event on February 3, 2023, Sewickley Borough Council President Cynthia Mullins has asked that the QVCOG discuss the topic of railroad safety. She highlighted that President Mullins has asked the QVCOG to send a letter to our region's state and federal representatives voicing the concerns of residents regarding railroad safety.

After some discussion, Ms. Barnes moved to authorize a correspondence that shall be sent to regional state and federal representatives on the topic of railroad safety. Ms. Paff seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Old Business:

Allegheny County Economic Development Update:

Executive Director Connors reported that at its February 15th meeting the QVCOG Board of Delegates unanimously moved to send a correspondence to Allegheny County Economic Development (ACED) citing its unresponsiveness and delays related to the CDBG Year 47 administrative cost report distribution (contract year ended June 30, 2022). He highlighted that a correspondence was prepared, but with multiple phone calls/emails ACED expedited the processing of the aforementioned cost report. He cited that on March 3, 2023 the QVCOG received Check No. 5697844 in the amount of \$26,303.22. He highlighted that with the payment being received the prepared correspondence was not sent to ACED.

Other Concerns of the Delegates:

Bellevue Borough: Ms. Miller highlighted that many residents of Bellevue Borough have voiced their concerns regarding railroad safety. She also stated that she knows the Executive Director of the Manchester Citizens Corporation (MCC) who was recently awarded a grant through the Reconnecting Communities Pilot program. She noted that the QVCOG would be wise to engage with the MCC in future Route 65 endeavors. She then inquired if other communities have had issues related to residential power outages. Ms. Barnes noted that residents of Sewickley's Ward 1 faced a similar circumstance during January. A discussion ensued.

Haysville Borough: Ms. Paff provided an update regarding Redgate Road citing that on March 14th a meeting was convened between regional law enforcement, PennDOT, Aleppo Township, Sewickley Borough, Glen Osborne Borough, and Haysville Borough. She highlighted that all parties reviewed the road's topography, etc. She concluded by reporting that PennDOT would be working with the municipalities to erect temporary signage related to trucking limits in the coming months.

Kilbuck Township: Mr. Valois noted that Kilbuck Township would be repairing stormwater infrastructure throughout the township in 2023.

Leet Township: Mr. McDaniel provided a brief update regarding the proposed Quaker Valley High School project.

Sewickley Borough: Ms. Barnes reported that after a lengthy evaluation period, Sewickley Borough Council approved a measure to enhance its municipal sewage treatment plant.

Adjournment: Mr. Valois moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barnes. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. and will take place at the Bellevue Borough (537 Bayne Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202). The meeting will be simultaneously broadcast on the Zoom platform, open to the public, and recorded. Please visit qvcog.org for further information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick M. Conners
Executive Director