

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

February 19, 2025

The meeting took place at the Sewickley Public Library (500 Thorn St, Sewickley, PA 15143) and was broadcast via Zoom.

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: Art Williams*

Avalon: Roberta Edwards

Bell Acres: Matt Horton

Bellevue: Dan McKelvey*

Ben Avon: Rick Wagner

Edgeworth:

Emsworth: Paul Getz

Sewickley Heights:

Glen Osborne: Barbara Carrier

Glenfield: Paul Carmody

Haysville: Amy Paff*

Kilbuck: Daryl Hartman

Leet: Donna Adipietro

Leetsdale: Maria Napolitano*

Sewickley: Julie Barnes*

Public Comment:

Executive Director Conners invited guests from Manchester Citizens Corporation (MCC) and Leadership Pittsburgh Community Development Initiative to the Board. Ms. LaShawn Burton-Faulk, Executive Director of MCC noted that Leadership Pittsburgh will be assisting her with the implementation of a Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Grant. Mr. Mark Chimel cited that Leadership Pittsburgh would be working with MCC through May 2025 and is seeking to engage neighboring communities and businesses along the Route 65 Corridor to understand their views regarding the current infrastructure as well as future development within the Manchester Chateau neighborhoods. A brief discussion regarding the Reconnecting Communities Grant, the history of Route 65, and the Manchester neighborhood ensued. Ms. Burton-Faulk highlighted that MCC has awarded a contract to Michael Baker International to develop a deliverable plan to reconnect the Manchester-Chateau neighborhoods to the Ohio Riverfront and future development, including the Esplanade.

Ms. Barnes thanked the guests for involving the QVCOG in these preliminary discussions. She noted that this endeavor provides a great opportunity for QVCOG member communities to work together with the MCC (i.e. City of Pittsburgh) to advocate for regional infrastructure improvements, specifically along Route 65. The Board proceeded to cite various challenges and opportunities their communities face regarding Route 65. Mr. Chimel stated that Leadership Pittsburgh planned to reach out to individual QVCOG communities to understand their needs and challenges. He reported that the group hoped to attend future QVCOG meetings through May.

Approval of January 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Getz moved to approve the January 15, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

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

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

President's Report:

President Carrier noted the high attendance at the meeting and invited interested Delegates to join her at Caliente in Sewickley after the meeting concluded. She also thanked everyone for their participation in the various QVCOG's recycling programs.

Route 65 Report:

Executive Director Connors highlighted that the Route 65 Committee met on January 27th and discussed various topics including the following:

- A deadly traffic incident that occurred in Bellevue Borough at the intersection of Route 65 and Kendall Avenue on January 19, 2025;
- QVCOG Police Chiefs meeting that on February 17th with Lt. Ulke of Moon Township P.D. & West Hills Regional Task Force; and
- Lunch meeting with Manchester Citizens Corporation and Michael Baker International on January 31st.

Emergency Preparedness Committee Report:

Executive Director Connors reported that the Tri-Boroughs Emergency Preparedness Committee was set to convene on February 13th. He stated that the meeting was postponed and highlighted that he will be working with the Committee to establish a meeting date and time in the coming weeks.

Grant Status Report:

Executive Director Connors provided brief updates concerning all active and recently awarded CDBG and GEDTF projects.

Executive Director's Report:

2025 Dues Invoices - Executive Director Connors reported that membership dues invoices for the 2025 calendar year were sent out via email the week of January 27th. He highlighted that dues rates have remained frozen at the rate established in 2022.

Amazon Business for Local Government - Executive Director Connors reminded Delegates that the QVCOG has partnered with Amazon Business along with the other Allegheny County COGs to provide a 2-year trial (free of charge) of Business Prime for any interested member municipality. He cited that Business Prime unlocks fast, free shipping for most items available on Amazon. Additionally, he noted that Allegheny County municipalities will receive exclusive discounted pricing for thousands of

commonly ordered items such as printer ink, copy paper, and more. He encouraged those interested in learning more to visit qvcog.org.

Avalon Borough Awarded a Municipal Intern - Executive Director Connors reported that Avalon Borough has been awarded an intern through the Local Government Academy's Municipal Intern Program. Ms. Edwards cited that the selected intern will be tasked with collaborating with the Joint Planning Commission (serves Avalon, Bellevue, and Ben Avon Boroughs) and the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee in developing a Multi-Municipal Implementable Comprehensive Plan.

New Business

Discussion Regarding Tree Adoption Event in QVCOG Region

Executive Director Connors reported that in an effort to bring more sustainably themed events into the QVCOG region, as well as to promote the increase in shade tree canopy in our communities, the QVCOG has reached out to Tree Pittsburgh in an effort to organize a tree adoption event in 2025. He noted that a similar event took place in Sewickley Borough during their "May Mart" event on May 13, 2023. He highlighted that the event's registration would be open exclusively to residents within the QVCOG's 15 member communities. He stated that each registrant would be able to reserve one native container tree aged between 2-3 years (available species, etc. would be determined by Tree Pittsburgh). He cited that due to stipulations tied to Tree Pittsburgh's federal grant funding, the adoption events must occur within designated environmental justice communities to qualify for the Program. He highlighted that QVCOG member communities that qualify under this Program include portions of Avalon Borough, portions of Bellevue Borough, portions of Emsworth Borough, Kilbuck Township, and Leetsdale Borough. He noted that should the Board move forward with this partnership and select a host site within one of the noted communities, 50% of the event would be paid for through the federal grant. He reported that under the proposed partnership, the event would be advertised, coordinated, and staffed by Tree Pittsburgh.

He stated that if approved, qualifying member communities would be contacted as potential host sites for the adoption event, etc. He stated that important logistics to consider for selecting a host site include a highly visible/easy to find/passersby (such as a parking lot or a park); parking for visitors and Tree Pittsburgh van; larger area for table/tent, trees, and other materials; restroom access for Tree Pittsburgh staff. He reported the earliest date for the event would be Saturday April 12, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m, noting that other available dates include various Saturdays in the Fall. He reported that the total proposed cost of the event for 100 trees and all logistical help provided by Tree Pittsburgh is \$2,750.00. He cited that this would be paid for through the QVCOG's Joint Recycling Fund, which has a current balance of \$25,172.44. He highlighted that this fund is annually replenished with the assistance of the Act 101 Section 904 Recycling Performance Grant.

Mr. Wagner moved to approve the Tree Pittsburgh proposal in the amount of \$2,750.00 to establish a Tree Adoption Event for the QVCOG region in 2025. Mr. Getz seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Consideration of Hard to Recycle Event in Partnership with Pennsylvania Resources Council

Executive Director Connors stated that he hoped to schedule another “Hard to Recycle” event facilitated through the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) for the 2025 calendar year. He cited that HTR events offer QVCOG and regional households an outlet to responsibly and conveniently dispose of items that are not eligible for curbside recycling. He highlighted that through past events, individuals have been able to recycle items such as e-waste (TVs & monitors), household dehumidifiers, cell phones, Freon-containing appliances, tires, and more. He noted that last year’s HTR Event was well attended having 310 registered participants and based on averages from the previous events in this region, an estimated 23,077 lbs. of material was collected and were sustainably recycled and diverted from landfills.

He continued by reporting that the QVCOG has reengaged with PRC seeking their services in an effort to bring another HTR event to the QVCOG region in 2025. He referenced that within the attached proposal PRC would charge the QVCOG a “Mobilization Fee” of \$10,000.00 (a \$1,000.00 increase from 2024) which would secure a date on PRC’s 2025 HTR calendar. He cited that the fee covers the cost of the various affiliated recycling vendors, travel, PRC staffing and labor, as well as essential tasks such as digital advertising and the production and distribution of advertisement materials. He stated that the proposed event would take place on a Saturday during the late summer/early fall of 2025 (exact date TBD). He highlighted that last year’s event took place at the Leetsdale Industrial Park. He stated that should the Board wish to move forward with the proposed partnership, both the PRC and the QVCOG would work with the Industrial Park and the Leetsdale Borough Police Department to identify an agreeable site and date for the event.

He highlighted that the event would be paid for via the QVCOG’s joint recycling fund, noting that in 2024 the organization received \$26,888.34 through the DEP’s Act 101 Section 904 Recycling Performance Program (based on 2022 data). He highlighted that of that award, a significant portion was distributed to the 14 participating member communities based on their residential recycling rates citing the remaining amount (\$15,429.85) was transferred into the organization’s joint recycling fund. He reported that the fund has grown significantly over the years currently standing at \$25,172.44.

Mr. Getz moved to approve the QVCOG’s Financial Sponsorship of a Hard to Recycle Event in Partnership with Pennsylvania Resources Council in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Mr. Hartman seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Discussion Regarding the Potential QVCOG Membership of Ben Avon Heights Borough

Executive Director Connors reported that following the January 15th Board of Delegates meeting, a conversation began between the QVCOG and some elected officials within Ben Avon Heights Borough. He cited the discussion revolving around the admission of Ben Avon Heights Borough into the existing Waste and Refuse

Agreement which is set to expire on December 31, 2026. he stated that after discussing the possibility of adding Ben Avon Heights to the existing contract beginning January 1, 2026, WM confirmed via email (dated January 22, 2025) that Ben Avon Heights could be added under the agreed upon pricing structure. He noted that as the discussions regarding additional programming and services continued, the Borough expressed interest in joining the QVCOG as a full voting member community. He cited that per an email dated February 12th from Mr. Jason Brown (President of Ben Avon Heights Borough Council), *“Borough Council seemed very interested in both options (waste and recycling agreement and QVCOG membership) and we will vote on asking to join the QVCOG at the next Council Meeting on March 11, 2024.”* He concluded by highlighting that in the email he requested some additional membership details and protocols, as well as waste and recycling agreement information, which will be forwarded to him in advance of the aforementioned meeting date.

Old Business

PurpleAir Monitors

Ms. Adipietro reported that through discussions with Ms. Gail Murray of Communities First Sewickley Valley, there are two PurpleAir monitors available through the Breath Project. Executive Director Connors reported that two PurpleAir monitors were previously provided to Ben Avon Borough and Edgeworth Borough through a similar initiative. Ms. Adipietro cited that designated environmental justice communities would be given priority as host sites.

Other Concerns of the Delegates:

Avalon Borough: Ms. Edwards reported that the Borough pool will be opening for the 2025 season following renovations that were performed throughout 2024. She also noted that the Borough’s Community Day will take place on July 6th.

Bell Acres Borough: Mr. Horton inquired to the group how communities handle excess road/rock salt that isn’t utilized during the winter season. A brief discussion ensued.

Bellevue Borough: Mr. McKelvey reported that Bellevue is seeking applicants for a seasonal opening in the Public Works Department. He also noted that Borough Council will be considering updates to their Home Rule Charter, specifically regarding the number of Councilpersons.

Ben Avon Borough: Mr. Wagner reported that the Borough Building elevator project is nearing completion. He also reported that the Borough’s sewer system will be integrated into the ALCOSAN network.

Glen Osborne Borough: Ms. Carrier cited that the Borough has experienced flooding issues in recent weeks.

Leetsdale Borough: Ms. Napolitano reported that Leetsdale was recently awarded a grant through the TreeVitalize Program for 10 mature trees to be planted within the Borough.

Sewickley Borough: Ms. Barnes reported that the Borough’s municipal pickleball courts would be available for public use in 2025.

Adjournment: Mr. Wagner moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Getz. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

The next meeting will take place at the Sewickley Public Library (500 Thorn St, Sewickley, PA 15143) on March 19, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Please visit qvcog.org for further information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick M. Conners
Executive Director