

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

March 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:

\*attended via Zoom

**Aleppo:** Art Williams

**Avalon:** Roberta Edwards\*

**Bell Acres:**

**Bellevue:** Dan McKelvey\*

**Ben Avon:** Tavia Washington\*

**Edgeworth:** Ellen Politi\*

**Emsworth:** Paul Getz

**Sewickley Heights:** Nathan Briggs\*

**Glen Osborne:** Barbara Carrier

**Glenfield:** Paul Carmody

**Haysville:**

**Kilbuck:** Daryl Hartman

**Leet:** Donna Adipietro

**Leetsdale:** Maria Napolitano\*

**Sewickley:**

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Mark Chimmel, Ms. Dana DePasquale, and Ms. Ramona Crawford all were present via Zoom. Mr. Chimmel reintroduced the group as representatives of the Leadership Development Initiative (LDI) XXXII, a cohort of emerging leaders from across Pittsburgh, part of Leadership Pittsburgh Inc. He cited that during the February Board meeting there was a lengthy discussion regarding Route 65 and its impacts along the corridor of QVCOG member communities, and beyond. He cited the group is working with the Manchester Citizens Corporation (MCC) to explore the potential impacts of lowering PA-65 or other potential changes to 65 in Manchester/Chateau and beyond.

He continued by highlighting Route 65 is a major transportation route that affects residents, businesses, and commuters throughout the corridor. He noted the potential changes to the Boulevard could have regional impacts, and they want to understand what matters most to surrounding communities. He cited the LDI group wants to hear QVCOG member community perspectives on how Route 65 serves their communities and what concerns and/or priorities are present.

Executive Director Connors thanked the group for joining the meeting and apologized for the technical difficulties regarding the provided Zoom link. He encouraged any interested community leaders to engage with the LDI group to outline their concerns and thoughts on the topic of Route 65.

**Approval of February 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes:**

Mr. Getz moved to approve the February 19, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

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

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

**President's Report:**

President Carrier noted her excitement for the upcoming Tree Adoption event and highlighted the usefulness and importance of increasing tree plantings throughout the QVCOG region. She also stated that she was extremely proud of the QVCOG Board and thanked Executive Director Conners for all of the efforts and energy committed to member communities which has resulted in rekindled interest from neighboring municipalities in joining the organization.

**Route 65 Report:**

No report was provided.

**Emergency Preparedness Committee Report:**

Executive Director Conners reported that the Tri-Boroughs Emergency Preparedness Committee convened on February 26<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the next meeting is set to occur on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Grant Status Report:**

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

**Executive Director's Report:**

Tree Adoption Event Details Finalized – Executive Director Conners cited that at the February 19th meeting the QVCOG Board of Delegates unanimously approved an agreement with Tree Pittsburgh to develop the parameters for a tree adoption event for the QVCOG region. He highlighted that approximately 100 young trees will be made available exclusively to residents within QVCOG member communities on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. He noted that all available trees and shrubs will be within 2-gallon containers that measure 8 3/4” in diameter and 8 1/2” deep and should fit in most vehicles. He stated that the event will take place at the Avalon Borough Pool parking lot. He emphasized that this will be a registration-based event noting that additional details regarding this event, including the registration link and available species of trees by visiting [qvcog.org](http://qvcog.org).

Return of Hard to Recycle Event – Executive Director Conners cited that at the February 19th meeting the QVCOG Board of Delegates unanimously approved a financial agreement with the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) to bring a Hard to Recycle Event to the QVCOG region in 2025. He reported that the event has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. He

highlighted that the specific location has not been finalized as of yet, but prior events have taken place at the Quaker Valley High School and the Buncher Industrial Park in Leetsdale. He cited that Hard to Recycle events provide responsible and convenient disposal for items that are not eligible for curbside recycling. He highlighted that at these events, individuals have been able to recycle items such as e-waste, cell phones, polystyrene, Freon-containing appliances, tires and more. He stated that these events require all participants to register in advance noting that additional details of the event, including disposal fees and registration details, as well as the specific location will be available on [qvcog.org](http://qvcog.org) in the coming weeks.

SPC Public Comment Period Regarding 2027 TIP – Executive Director Connors reported that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) is partnering with the State Transportation Commission and PennDOT in order to promote the 2025 Kick-off Public Comment Period for the 2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He highlighted that the 2025 Public Comment Period for the TIP update begins Monday, March 3, and continues through Wednesday, April 30. He stated that during the Public Comment Period, Pennsylvanians can submit feedback by taking the [Transportation Survey](#), emailing comments to [RA-PennDOTSTC@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PennDOTSTC@pa.gov), or calling 717-783-2262 from 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM to request a printed copy of the Survey, or to complete the Survey by telephone. He cited that SPC and PennDOT will review and use the public survey results to help identify transportation needs and potential projects in the SPC Region during the development of the SPC Region’s 2027 TIP. He highlighted that this survey allows respondents to submit a transportation issue or need on an interactive map and answer a series of questions about the importance of transportation investments in our communities, such as Route 65. He encouraged community officials to take the survey and asked them to distribute the link to their networks.

ALPR Cameras Being Installed Throughout Region – Executive Director Connors reported that after many months of planning and waiting for the weather to break, five regional intersections are currently being outfitted with Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras, affiliated hardware, and software. He highlighted that this Project has been paid for through the Keystone Communities Program which was initially awarded to the QVCOG in August of 2023. He cited that under the guidance of the QVCOG’s Police Chiefs Committee, quotes were solicited and awarded to the Surveillance Group for the physical infrastructure and PlateSmart for the affiliated software which makes the whole networked system work. He proceeded to outline the intersections that will be outfitted with the cameras, which can be found below:

- Avalon Borough - Intersection of Elizabeth Avenue & Route 65;
- Bellevue Borough - Intersection of N. Balph Avenue & Lincoln Avenue;
- Glen Osborne - Intersection of River Road & Route 65;
- Leetsdale Borough - Intersection of Cross Street and Beaver Street; and
- Leetsdale Borough - Intersection of Broad Street & Route 65

## **New Business**

### **Admission of Ben Avon Heights Borough as a Member to the QVCOG**

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 stated that initial discussions revolved 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 cited that after discussing the possibility of adding Ben Avon Heights to the existing contract beginning January 1, 2026, WM confirmed through a correspondence (dated February 25, 2025) that Ben Avon Heights could be added under the agreed upon pricing structure. He noted that following the response from WM, he and Solicitor Matthew Racunas met with the Ben Avon Heights team, including their solicitor, to discuss the Borough's options regarding future integration with the COG's joint waste and recycling agreement. He summarized that both solicitors agreed that the best course of action would be for Ben Avon Heights Borough to solicit a separate one-year agreement for waste and recycling for the 2026 calendar year. He highlighted that from there, if the Borough would join the QVCOG they could participate in the development and implementation of the future COG waste and recycling agreement.

He continued by stating that discussions regarding additional COG programming and services continued through several Zoom calls and subsequently the Borough expressed interest in joining the QVCOG as a full voting member community. He reported that at their March 11, 2025 meeting, Ben Avon Heights Borough voted to request formal membership to the QVCOG. He cited that per the QVCOG's Bylaws, any municipality in Pennsylvania is eligible to apply for full membership to the QVCOG and can do so by submitting a letter of interest to the Executive Director and completing a form provided by the QVCOG. He reported that the Borough has provided those documents.

Mr. Williams moved to approve the membership of Ben Avon Heights Borough to the QVCOG as a full voting member. Mr. Hartman seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

### **Presentation - Bird Town Pennsylvania**

Executive Director Connors stated that following the 2024 Allegheny League of Municipalities (ALOM) Spring Conference, the presentation that seemed to be discussed the most from the entire conference was the "Bird Town" certification discussion that was organized by the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania. He cited that per their webpage, "Bird Town Pennsylvania works in partnership with local municipalities and like-minded organizations to promote community-based conservation actions to create a healthier, more sustainable environment for birds, wildlife, and people." He highlighted that both Avalon and Bellevue Boroughs are certified Bird Towns. He introduced Mr. Jim Bonner, Executive Director of the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania who proceeded to outline the parameters of the Bird Town Program and highlighted how interested communities can become certified Bird Towns.

### **Old Business**

#### **Other Concerns of the Delegates:**

Leetsdale Borough: Ms. Napolitano reported that she recently attended a seminar on the topic of integrating artificial intelligence into parks and recreation programs, specifically during the registration process. She inquired if the QVCOG would be able

to utilize a joint quote for such services. Executive Director Connors cited that he would be happy to meet with interested agencies to gauge their services as well as their willingness to work with the group.

Leet Township: Ms. Adipietro reported that work on the Township's War Memorial was nearing completion.

Glen Osborne Borough: Ms. Carrier reported that bus service along Beaver Road has resumed after it was halted due to recent weight limitations and signage exclusions along the roadway.

Sewickley Heights Borough: Mr. Briggs reported that on March 3rd work began on the repair of Way Hollow Road.

Avalon Borough: Ms. Edwards Reported that the Avalon Borough Pool would be reopening on June 14th after being closed last season for repairs. She also reported that five Borough residents would be attending volunteer firefighter school.

Aleppo Township: Mr. Williams reported that an indoor pickleball court facility will be open for a community walkthrough on March 29th prior to its full opening.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Hartman moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carmody. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

The next meeting will take place at the Sewickley Public Library (500 Thorn St, Sewickley, PA 15143) on April 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Please visit [qvcog.org](http://qvcog.org) for further information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick M. Connors  
Executive Director