

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

May 21, 2025

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

President Barnes 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*

Ben Avon Heights: Steve Stiller

Edgeworth:

Emsworth: Paul Getz

Glen Osborne:

Glenfield:

Haysville: Amanda Muzichuck*

Kilbuck: Daryl Hartman*

Leet: Donna Adipietro

Leetsdale: Maria Napolitano*

Sewickley: Julie Barnes

Sewickley Heights: Nathan Briggs

Public Comment:

Ms. Barbara Carrier, Former QVCOG Board President and Mayor of Glen Osborne Borough was in attendance.

Approval of April 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Getz moved to approve the April 16, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

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

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

President's Report:

President Barnes began by thanking Ms. Carrier for her many years of public service, citing that she stepped down as Mayor of Glen Osborne Borough on May 20, 2025. She continued that the QVCOG Bylaws state that Delegates must be an elected official or a municipal employee as a Surrogate Delegate. She highlighted the exemplary leadership example that Barbara provided to the QVCOG. She concluded by expressing her excitement to work with the Board in her new capacity as Board President.

Route 65 Report:

Citing the presentation from the Leadership Development Initiative, Executive Director Conners stated that there was nothing additional to add on the topic of Route 65.

Emergency Preparedness Committee Report:

Executive Director Conners reported that the Tri-Boroughs Emergency Preparedness Committee is set to convene on May 23rd.

Grant Status Report:

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

Executive Director's Report:

Summary of Tree Adoption Event – Executive Director Conners reported that at the April 12th Tree Adoption event (in partnership with Tree Pittsburgh) one hundred trees were adopted by 62 households within thirteen QVCOG member communities.

Recognition of Barbara Carrier – Executive Director Conners thanked Ms. Carrier for all she has done for both the QVCOG as well as the greater Quaker Valley region. He noted that prior to being elected Mayor, Barbara served on the Borough's Planning Commission and Council. He cited that during her tenure as Mayor, Barbara was the “voice of Glen Osborne”, often being the first point of contact for the Borough's residents and community groups. He reported that for the last two decades Barbara has been a regional leader for the Quaker Valley where she has led the Mayor's Breakfast Group and worked with local first responders to ensure the safety and well-being of residents and business owners. Additionally, he stated that Barbara was an invaluable team member for multiple Boards and Organizations including the Fern Hollow Nature Center, Mary Roberts Reinhart Nature Park, and the Quaker Valley Council of Governments where she has served as President of the Board of Delegates since 2022. He thanked her for her guidance as she was a role model as he grew into the role of Executive Director of the organization.

Support for PA Commission for the USA's Semi-Quincentennial – Executive Director Conners reported that in an effort to raise awareness and support the efforts of America250PA in their initiative to engage all Pennsylvanians in all 67 Counties throughout the Commonwealth, the QVCOG Board unanimously approved a Resolution supporting the Pennsylvania Commission for the USA's Semi-Quincentennial (250th birthday, 1776-2026). He encouraged QVCOG member communities to follow suit, for there are grants available (approved by the Pennsylvania Legislature during the 2024-25 session). He stated that the Semi-Quincentennial Grants are intended to create, uplift, improve, and expand programming, projects, and events from eligible Pennsylvania communities and organizations, which contribute to a full calendar of activities, engaging every single Pennsylvanian, around the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. He concluded by reporting that the second and final grant period was run from April 1st through May 15th with awards being announced no later than June 15, 2025 with a total of \$500,000.00 in funding will be available.

Managers and Secretaries Picnic – Executive Director Conners reported that on Wednesday, May 28th at 11:00 a.m. the QVCOG will be hosting the

annual Managers and Secretaries picnic at Avalon Borough's Community Park (Shelter #1, - 708 New Brighton Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15202). He highlighted that the event will be catered by the Bridgeside Market. He stated that all municipal administrative staff and seasonal interns are encouraged to attend.

New Business

Presentation by the Leadership Development Initiative on the Topic of Potential Regional Impacts of Lowering Route 65 along Manchester & Chateau Neighborhoods

Executive Director Connors introduced Mr. Mark Chimel and the Leadership Development Initiative (LDI) who will be presenting their final analysis and report regarding their outreach regarding the potential impacts on lowering Route 65 to reconnect the Manchester and Chateau neighborhoods within the City of Pittsburgh. Mr. Chimel cited that he would be summarizing the presentation that was provided by LDI and Michael Baker International on May 15th at the Manchester Citizens Corporation's (MCC) Open House event.

Mr. Chimel stated that as part of LDI's commitment to strengthening Pittsburgh communities, they partnered with the MCC to explore the potential impacts of lowering Pennsylvania State Route 65 (PA-65) and reconnecting the Manchester and Chateau neighborhoods. He provided various illustrations of the possible project citing that PA-65 has long served as a critical transportation corridor for the Quaker Valley. He highlighted that the highway has physically divided the two communities, limiting connectivity, economic development, and pedestrian access. He noted that thorough the community engagement process of their project they aimed to better understand how changes to this corridor could affect not only Manchester and Chateau but also the broader corridor throughout the QVCOG region.

He reported that the most common concerns that he and the group heard from QVCOG community members included increased traffic/congestion associated with the potential construction and implementation of lowering the Boulevard. He also noted the worry of increased time for emergency responders to arrive from QVCOG communities to Pittsburgh hospitals. He continued by citing that community leaders also expressed their concerns with the current safety and aesthetics of the Route 65 corridor. He then cited the economic development component of Route 65 citing that the input and impact to local businesses along the Boulevard is an important consideration. He concluded by stating the desire of the MCC to broaden their partnerships citing the Route 65 Intergovernmental Agreement as an opportunity. He stated that Michael Baker International will be taking up the mantle in the coming months to continue the community outreach and planning efforts with the assistance of the MCC.

Ms. Carrier inquired regarding the establishment of a regional commission to move the planning efforts forward, citing a local example. Mr. Chimel stated that the idea of a commission is intriguing, but he was unfamiliar with the process. Ms. Carrier then inquired regarding the involvement of PennDOT in the engagement efforts. Mr. Chimel highlighted that a representative from PennDOT was virtually at the Open House on May 15th. Ms. Barnes highlighted that the QVCOG has been working for over five years to

bring more visibility to Route 65 and thanked the LDI volunteers for their efforts. She noted that the QVCOG built a GIS based stakeholders map which would be a good tool for future engagement efforts. Mr. Chimel stated that LDI is in the process of finalizing a webpage which will be utilized as a resource by MCC. Mr. Hartman inquired how many residents currently live in the Chateau neighborhood. Mr. Chimel reported that the community in its current state is industrial in nature but highlighted future development in the form of the Esplanade. Mr. Getz stated that the City of Pittsburgh should be taking a greater lead in this proposed endeavor. Executive Director Connors thanked Mr. Chimel and his team for all of their efforts.

Re-Appointment of Mr. Jeffrey Eck to the QVCOG's Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals

Executive Director Connors reported that on September 1, 2023 Mr. Jeffrey Eck's (Kilbuck Township) term on the Uniform Construction Code (UCC) Board of Appeals expired. He highlighted that since his hire as Executive Director in April 2021 the UCC has been convened zero times. He reported that per an email dated April 30th Mr. Eck expressed his interest in being re-appointed to the UCC Board. He stated that if approved by the Board of Delegates, Mr. Eck's next term would expire on September 1, 2026. Following an inquiry by Ms. Edwards, a brief discussion regarding the UCC ensued.

Mr. Getz moved to re-appoint Mr. Jeffrey Eck of Kilbuck Township to the UCC Board of Appeals with a term expiring on September 30, 2026. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Proclamation Honoring Ms. Barbara Carrier for Her Service to the QVCOG

President Barnes read aloud a proposed proclamation honoring Barbara Carrier into the record:

WHEREAS, Public service is a noble calling which often provides a variety of challenges and rewards to those who seek it; and

WHEREAS, the ability for a local government to provide responsive, innovative, and effective service to its residents depends on the outstanding performance of dedicated public servants; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Barbara Carrier chose the path of public service beginning in 1986 when she was hired as a teacher within Sewickley Academy; and

WHEREAS, Since January of 2014, Barbara has served as the Mayor for Glen Osborne Borough; and

WHEREAS, Prior to being elected Mayor, Barbara served on the Borough's Planning Commission and Council; and

WHEREAS, For the last two decades Barbara has been a regional leader for the Quaker Valley where she has led the Mayor's Breakfast Group and worked with local first responders to ensure the safety and well-being of residents and business owners; and

WHEREAS, In addition to municipal leadership, Barbara has also become an invaluable team member for multiple Boards and Organizations including the Fern Hollow Nature Center, Mary Roberts Reinhart Nature Park, and the Quaker Valley

Council of Governments (“QVCOG”) where she has served as Board President since 2022; and

WHEREAS, It is essential and proper to recognize the tremendous impact of public servants within QVCOG member communities.

THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED That the QVCOG formally recognizes the extraordinary public service of Ms. Barbara Carrier.

DULY PASSED AND PROCLAIMED, On this 21st day of May of the year 2025 by the Board of Delegates of the Quaker Valley Council of Governments.

Mr. Getz moved to approve the honorary proclamation in recognition of Barbara Carrier. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

QVCOG Officer Assignments

Executive Director Connors reported that on May 20, 2025 Ms. Barbara Carrier formally resigned her position as Mayor of Glen Osborne Borough. He cited that Ms. Carrier has moved from Glen Osborne Borough and could no longer serve as Mayor, and per the QVCOG’s Bylaws, cannot serve as Glen Osborne Borough’s Delegate to the Board of Delegates. He continued by noting per the QVCOG’s Bylaws, *“If the vacancy is created in the role of the President, the Vice President will serve out the term”*. He thanked Ms. Julie Barnes for stepping up and serving as the Board’s President for the remainder of the 2025 calendar year. He stated that regarding the new vacancy of Vice President, the Bylaws state the following, *“If the vacancy is created in the role of the Vice-President or Treasurer, the President will appoint another delegate to fill the role for the remainder of the term”*. He reported that President Barnes contacted Ms. Maria Napolitano (Leetsdale Borough) and she agreed to serve as the organization’s Board Vice President for the remainder of 2025.

Membership Inquiry - Sewickley Hills Borough

Executive Director Connors reported that following the March 19th Board of Delegates meeting, a conversation began between himself and Mr. Hunter Hopkins, an elected official within Sewickley Hills Borough. Executive Director Connors reported that he attended the April 8th Sewickley Hills Borough Council Meeting. He highlighted that discussions revolved around COG programming and services including the Waste and Recycling Contract and the COG’s experience in applying for and administering grants. He cited that at their May 13, 2025 meeting, Sewickley Hills Borough voted to request formal membership to the QVCOG, pending a final review of the organization’s Bylaws by their solicitor.

He stated 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 an application form provided by the QVCOG. He cited that additionally, any Full Member who has been approved by the Board of Directors will pass a municipal resolution, as provided by the QVCOG. He affirmed that following their vote on May 13th, Sewickley Hills passed the required resolution. He reported that he is still awaiting receipt of the letter of interest and the membership application form as cited within the Bylaws. He stated that he anticipates bringing the

matter of Sewickley Hills Borough's membership for a full Board vote at the June 18th meeting.

Old Business

Other Concerns of the Delegates:

Avalon Borough: Ms. Edwards thanked the QVCOG for highlighting QVCOG community pride month events on the organization's website. She also thanked the QVCOG for observing Juneteenth, a federally recognized holiday.

Bellevue Borough: Mr. McKelvey reported that the Lincoln Avenue Streetscape Project, funded by the CDBG program, will be underway in the coming weeks. He also noted community survey results related to the possibility of changing their home rule charter.

Ben Avon Heights Borough: Ms. Stiller reported that Ben Avon Heights Borough is seeking bids for their waste and recycling services for 2026. He also reported that the Borough is seeking to update their zoning code. He concluded by highlighting the continuation of their community park beautification project.

Emsworth Borough: Mr. Getz thanked the QVCOG for their partnership with the Michael Brothers Companies and the drop-off yard waste facility in Reserve Township. He reported that Emsworth Borough Public Works was able to drop off 10 tons of yard waste that was generated during the recent windstorms.

Haysville Borough: Ms. Muzichuck reported that Ms. Jessica Taylor would be taking the reins as Emergency Management Coordinator for the Borough in the coming months. She also cited a Facebook community page which highlights traffic accidents within the greater Sewickley region.

Glen Osborne Borough: Ms. Carrier reported that the final section of barrier wall is set to be installed in Mary Roberts Reinhardt Park, highlighting that it would feature bats, paying homage to the creator of the Batman character.

Leetsdale Borough: Ms. Napolitano reported that Leetsdale Borough is preparing for their Fourth of July celebrations. She also reported that Clean Express Car Wash would be building a site at 10 Village Dr, Leetsdale, PA 15056. She also noted that Subway would be moving into the old Red Cap Cleaners building at 99 Ohio River Boulevard.

Sewickley Heights Borough – Mr. Briggs reported that Sewickley Heights Park will be implementing a dog license program for off leash dogs. He reported that residents within the 15143-zip code footprint will not have a fee while others will have a \$50 fee.

Adjournment: Mr. Williams moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stiller. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

The next meeting will take place at the Sewickley Public Library (500 Thorn St, Sewickley, PA 15143) on June 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick M. Connors
Executive Director