

Upper Delaware Council
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
April 26, 2011

Committee Present: Rando, Rajs, Roeder, Niflot, Peckham
Committee Absent: Richardson
NPS Partner: McGuinness
Staff: Douglass, Soete, Coney, Ramie
Guests: D. Keesler

The UDC's Operations Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 26, 2011 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Vice-Chairperson Scott Rando called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. A motion by Rajs seconded by Niflot to approve the March 22 and April 7 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

Presentation Staff Health Insurance Renewal Options – N. Yoder: Yoder presented and reviewed a chart of health insurance plan options for the committee's consideration. The current Prism policy through Empire BC/BS would be increasing by 18% at renewal in June. Other options provided included BC/BS EPO Stepped, BC/BS Value EPO, and two choices under MVP EPO Preferred. Yoder reviewed the changes in insurance due to the health care bill. She provided differences with each plan and answered questions. The committee requested staff input. Keesler asked how Medicare played in the choices. It was explained that the Council would need to make a policy as to if they would cover Medicare premiums and what Parts they would cover. Yoder noted that a new plan would need to be chosen by May since the June renewal billing would be generated in early May. However, a credit could be issued if that invoice was paid before a decision on a plan could be made. Following discussion, a motion by Peckham seconded by Rajs to approve Empire BC/BS EPO Stepped plan for employee health insurance commencing on the renewal date in June was carried.

PR/Fund Raising Specialist's Report: Ramie reviewed her written report handed out. She noted the UDC awards ceremony went well with 82 guests. The raffle of two framed photos provided by Soete and Rando garnered \$190. Central House in Beach Lake, PA provided an ideal setting.

Under NYS grant TM09050, an executed contract from NYS DEC was received on March 30 from a contract submitted June of last year. Also received was a letter (copy handed out) dated March 17 from NYS DEC regarding the 1.1% reduction on state payment requests made between Sept. 16, 2010 and March 31, 2011. Five remaining towns are completing their projects under this grant—Delaware, Fremont, Hancock, Highland, and Tusten.

The Council's spring/summer newsletter was mailed March 31 and posted on the Council's website. The fall/winter edition is due to be issued on Sept. 1.

Regarding Upper Delaware Scenic Byway grant M060091, on April 21 Ramie received notice that this grant was not re-appropriated in the current state budget year and notification was provided immediately to the project sponsors of grants awarded to suspend work pending an appeal by the Byway group on this fiscal year 2006 grant.

The Byway would be sponsoring a Japanese knotweed seminar at the Tusten Town Hall on April 30. News releases have been issued.

Executive Director's Report: No written report at this time.

Old Business

Fund Raising Plan Jan. 1993 Review (referred from last meeting): Rando inquired if the committee had any ideas to offer following their review of the fund raising plan. Rajs indicated she did not have a chance to review the plan with Keesler who originally wanted it passed out when she was on the board.

Ramie noted that the committee had mentioned doing a calendar as a fund raiser. She obtained information from a company where the Council would provide all the photographs. If ordered by July 15, the company would include an extra calendar month. The price Ramie obtained for 100 calendars was \$2,640 thereby resulting in a cost to purchase individual copies of \$26 per calendar. Bulk prices went up

with this company. McGuinness suggested having a high school art student design the calendar and run copies. Rajszyk thought the towns/townships could supply a photograph to be included. Peckham offered that an annual "theme" could be incorporated, such as historical markers one year. Keesler offered to check with Quality Printing on their prices. Rajszyk mentioned that some times college art courses look for an outside project of this type to do.

New Business

Summary of Pending Bills / Financial Statements: The committee was provided with the summary of bills for April to review. A motion by Rajszyk seconded by Peckham approving the bills for payment was carried. The financial statements for period ended March 31 were handed out. Rajszyk asked why the Friends group was still being shown on the Profit & Loss statement as an income since she thought this was transferred. Coney indicated that the dues collected from this defunct group were dedicated to a specific project at one time. Ramie indicated it didn't appear on last month's report. Douglass would look into this.

Rajszyk said she's mentioned before that we need to look at upgrading our PCs and Richardson had indicated looking into grants for this, but under the current economic climate grants are not out there; we need to think about this. Peckham asked McGuinness if UDC would be getting more funding and McGuinness indicated they were working on that. Rajszyk offered we could purchase one new PC a year. Roeder said if there's money in the budget at the end of the fiscal we could use it for new PCs for all. Ramie noted that they could look into Tech Soup that offers discounted items for non-profits. Rajszyk asked that be done and Ramie said Soete is our computer guy. Rando offered his concern that if we get low ball PCs from such a source we may have to add more memory; so it might cost us some more money besides initial purchase.

UDC Government Officials Liaison Subcommittee Report: Douglass reported that he and Rajszyk visited with Congresswoman Nan Hayworth on April 20 in Goshen. The meeting went well. They provided Hayworth with information regarding the Upper Delaware Council and its mandates. They invited Hayworth to visit our area and also to participate in the annual family raft trip.

McGuinness met with the Supervisor of the Town of Deepark and invited Rajszyk and Douglass to sit in on this same day meeting. The discussion centered on continuing a public river access at Sparrowbush. DEC leased this private land in the past but it currently is on the market for sale.

Sullivan Co. Planning Request for UDC Support for NY Main Street Grant Application: The committee was provided with a draft letter to the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management noting the Operations Committee voted to recommend that the full Council approve a resolution in support of the Division's application for a 2011 New York Main Street Program grant. The target hamlets of this grant application are important residential and commercial centers within four of the UDC's member municipalities—Delaware, Tusten, Highland, and Lumberland. The deadline for letters is April 29. The letter would be sent to Planning immediately and a resolution from the May full Council meeting would follow. Following discussion of this initiative, a motion by Rajszyk seconded by Roeder to approve the letter and recommend the resolution was carried. Rajszyk noted that this application, and award if received, would form the second round of an ongoing NY Main Street grant project.

Grover Hermann Hospital Division Request for UDC Support for Directional Signage: Ramie had received an email from Robert Fisher, Administrator of Grover Hermann Hospital in Callicoon, as a result of discussion at the April UDC meeting, seeking support with the NYS and PA Departments of Transportation for hospital "H" signs at specific locations in the river corridor in New York and Pennsylvania to raise awareness of the hospital's round-the-clock availability for emergency care particularly aimed to the tourist population who may be unfamiliar with this rural area. Mr. Fisher is the newly appointed Town of Delaware Alternate to the Upper Delaware Council. Draft letters to the DOTs were provided to the Operations Committee for review. A motion by Rajszyk seconded by Roeder to recommend full Council approval of the letters was carried.

Staff Travel Requests: Ramie requested travel approval for her and Douglass to attend the May 19 NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission meeting in Dunmore, PA. McGuinness said UDC staff could carpool with NPS. Ramie indicated that the PA Fish & Boat Commission requested a re-presentation of the

award Mark Hartle received at the UDC awards ceremony in April at the Commission meeting in Harrisburg on July 11. Ramie read aloud the email request she received. She noted that she had a personal commitment that night at 5 p.m. Rajszy mentioned this would entail a long travel commitment for an award that has already been presented. Peckham felt this would add an additional expense for the Council. The committee felt they could not justify the added expense. Ramie will notify the Fish & Boat Commission.

Public Comment None

Executive Session: A motion by Roeder seconded by Rajszy to go into executive session at 8:10 p.m. regarding personnel matters was carried. A motion by Rajszy seconded by Roeder to come out of executive session at 8:47 p.m. was carried.

Adjournment A motion by Rajszy seconded by Roeder to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. was carried.

Carol Coney, Office Manager