

DAUPHIN COUNTY GAMING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Dauphin County Administration Building, 2nd Floor
Thursday, December 11, 2008
4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Members Present

George Groves, Chairman
Justin Warren, Vice Chairman
David Craig, Secretary
Lloyd Umberger
Jim Szymborski

Also present were Paul Clark, Chairman, Dauphin County Industrial Development Authority (IDA); Mark Stewart, Wolf Block; Michael Musser, Community Networking Resources; Dave La Torre, La Torre Communications; George Connor, Dauphin County; and Amy Richards, Dauphin County.

Call to Order

Mr. Groves called the hearing to order at 4:00 p.m.

Dauphin County Library System: New Library in Hummelstown

Richard Bowra, Executive Director; Karen Cullings, Community Relations Director, Dauphin County Library System presented the grant request for a new facility in Hummelstown.

DCLS has been working with the Borough of Hummelstown and Dauphin County in the planning of this project. Dauphin County served as the co-sponsor.

Dauphin County Library System (DCLS) is requesting a local share grant for \$750,000 for a new facility in Hummelstown Borough. Total project cost is \$4,369,482. The building design is complete and construction and bidding documents are being prepared. Two capital campaigns and two major grants from the Commonwealth have been secured.

The library will be located a few blocks from the Hummelstown square on three parcels where the former historic National Hotel, constructed in the late 1800s, and the former site of Community Lanes. The main floor of the library will house all of the major public library areas. The upper floor contains the multipurpose, conference rooms, as well as a staff break room and office space. Construction is expected to start in March 2009.

DCLS has been developing the funding plan for the project for years. The request for gaming revenues through the Uniform Local Share program is the final piece of the funding strategy. DCLS has more than \$3.6 million raised towards this project. This has been raised through two

separate capital campaigns, two major state grants, and through bequests left to the library in the sum of \$4,369,752.

If DCLS is awarded a local share municipal grant, it will cover infrastructure costs.

According to Ms. Cullings, gifts and donations total \$800,000. DCLS is \$200,000 away from reaching its goal.

Harrisburg Realty Improvement Corporation: City streetscape improvements

Brad Jones, Harrisburg Realty Improvement Corp; Michael Hanes, President and CEO, Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts; John Ortenzio, President, Select Capital Commercial Properties; Doug McAninch, Chief Estimator, RS Mowery and Sons; Ed Nielson, Director, Mayor's Office of Economic Development presented the grant application for improvements to the streetscape along South Third Street, between Market and Chestnut Streets.

The City of Harrisburg and Dauphin County were co-sponsors of the application.

The full grant request is \$541,370 for improvements, such as concrete/brick sidewalks, new historic lampposts, trees and bollards, to conform to the City's Streetscape Design Guidelines established in 2001. This plan was designed to create a unified and attractive design scheme for public amenities, such as lighting, plantings, street trees, trash receptacles, and street furniture. The purpose of this plan was to create a high quality and attractive environment for commercial activity and a place where people will enjoy living, working, shopping, and visiting and keeping downtown competitive by enhancing its identity and image as Pennsylvania's Capital City and a unique urban center with special features.

Streetscape improvements are also an important part of Harristown's Urban Renewal Plan established by the City and Harristown Development Corporation in 1974 to revitalize downtown Harrisburg. In addition to the development of office, retail, cultural and residential facilities, the plan includes improvements of "People Places" (pedestrian ways, urban open space).

Improving South Third Street is important considering recent rapid business and residential growth. It's also important considering the significance of this historic business district and the fact that South Third Street is a major thoroughfare for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic, and because of its proximity to major city businesses, historic, cultural and recreational assets. The goal is to encourage new business investment in downtown Harrisburg and improve pedestrian safety and comfort.

Multi-phase streetscape improvements in the neighborhood of SOMA (South of Market) include South Third Street. This project could be completed in two phases, depending on available funding. Currently, South Third Street's sidewalks are in desperate need of repair.

Mr. Hanes explained that this project would greatly enhance the streetscapes near and around Whitaker Center. It was improve lighting and sidewalks for pedestrian traffic to and from Whitaker Center. In addition, it would attract businesses and investment to SOMA.

Mr. Ortenzio, a nearby property owner, also said the streetscape improvements would greatly enhance the safety and attractiveness of the neighborhood and would likely encourage customers of Bricco to patronize nearby businesses.

Mr. Nielson said the City of Harrisburg fully supports streetscape improvements in SOMA to attract investment and increase pedestrian traffic. Furthermore, it would add to the Southern Gateway project.

If Harrisburg Realty Improvements Corporation would receive partial funding, the project could move forward, but certain plans would be stalled.

West Hanover Township: Fire Engine Pumper Unit and Fire Station

Larry Hartman, Chairman, West Hanover Township; Adam Klein, Vice Chairman, West Hanover Township; Linda Turns, Secretary/Treasurer, West Hanover Township; Deb Curcillo, Supervisor, West Hanover Township; Elizabeth England, Interim Manager; Matt Senft, Fire Chief; Matt Miller, Fire Company President; Al Brulo, Township Engineer; Harold Harman, Roadmaster presented grant applications for West Hanover Township.

*It should be noted that West Hanover Township presented the projects in order of priority.

Mr. Miller and Mr. Senft from the West Hanover Fire Company presented the application for a new fire station and fire engine pumper unit.

First, they presented the grant application for a fire engine pumper unit. The total grant amount requested for a new fire engine pumper unit is \$445,000.00.

As the closet fire station to Hollywood Casino besides East Hanover Township, West Hanover Township is seeking to upgrade equipment. The new pumper would be used at Volunteer Fire Company #1.

The Township is seeking to fund 90 percent of the total costs at \$400,500 and will contribute the remaining 10 percent to the purchase of the apparatus. Actual costs of the engine will be determined through competitive bidding.

The project for a new fire station is a multi-year project involving the land appraisal, land acquisition, site and land development planning building design building permitting, and construction of a new central fire station for the West Hanover Township Volunteer Fire Company to use in fire protection and emergency services support of the Township. West Hanover currently serves adjacent communities in mutual aid fire and emergency calls from surrounding municipalities. This project is to replace Station #1 and #2 in the Township with a more centrally located fire house facility and to expand fire service support functions. It would also improve equipment storage space and would provide a more energy efficient building. Currently, storage for fire fighting equipment is not adequate.

West Hanover Township is one of the first responders and/or mutual aid fire alarm responders to fire and emergency calls at Hollywood Casino in East Hanover Township. Since the casino opened in 2007, the Township has already responded to calls at the facility and will continue to do so. The new fire facility will permit effective and efficient operations to West Hanover residents and to Hollywood Casino.

This multi-year plan conforms to local and regional comprehensive plans. The Township is seeking grant funds to support 100 percent of the total project budget, which is \$2 million. The project includes 1) Phase 1 for land acquisition, 2) design and bid preparation, and 3) construction.

Currently, West Hanover Township does not have a commitment from a landowner for land acquisition. The Board of Supervisors, however, met with a local resident to discuss land acquisition for a new fire station. The Township plans to own the building and the land.

West Hanover Township: Harper Drive reconstruction

Over the past few years, West Hanover Township has experienced increased in truck traffic at the Exit 77 interchange on Interstate 81 and SR 0039. Truck and transportation related service businesses are located throughout the interchange area with only limited streets and private tracts available for maneuvering. Based on complaints from local residents, public safety officials and volunteers, these vehicles have been using private driveways, empty lots, and dangerous U-turn movements to turn around and negotiate the interchange area. Harper Drive is not constructed sufficiently to handle weight and volume of trucks that may utilize this road. The reconstruction will involve final engineering of the appropriate road construction of the street. This project would improve public safety, accident risk from illegal and unsafe truck U-turns and minimize property damage.

West Hanover and the Exit 77 interchange host numerous hotels and automotive and truck service businesses that serve trucking traffic on Interstate 81 and commuter traffic entering and leaving Hershey entertainment centers. The Harper Drive reconstruction will improve safety and control truck flow to the signalized intersections in the corridor.

The total grant amount requested for the reconstruction project is \$240,000.00.

West Hanover Township: Street Sweeper

Ms. Turns presented the application for a new street sweeper in sum of \$157,250.00. This single year project involves the purchase of a new municipal street sweeper and storm water system maintenance apparatus for the West Hanover Township Public Works Department. In meeting the eligibility requirements, this equipment will replace the Township's 24-year old vacuum filter street sweeper with a modern and more effective sweeping and SWM maintenance unit. The Township has a need for this unity for regular road and stormwater management and maintenance and as it attempts to meet its responsibilities under the Dauphin County Act 167 SWM Plan and the Township's MS4 storm water management permits.

The purchase of this project will be completed in the spring of 2009.

Northern Dauphin County YMCA: Senior Wellness Center expansion

Susan Jacobs, Executive Director, Northern Dauphin County YMCA; Chelstan Anderson, Fitness Director of Northern Dauphin County Branch YMCA; Eric Rothermel, Outreach Director, Northern Dauphin County Branch YMCA.

Washington Township and Dauphin County served as co-sponsors of the application.

The Northern Dauphin County YMCA is requesting a local share municipal grant in the amount of \$236,000.000 in order for the YMCA's Senior Wellness Center, located near Interstate 81 via Route 209 in Elizabethville, to be completed in its entirety.

Currently, about 1,600 people are served. Elizabethville has a large elderly population (27%) that utilizes the facility for exercise programs and services.

The current facility has been expanded to include additional space for a kitchen and living room area and exercise equipment. Remaining construction costs are estimated at \$36,000. The Northern Dauphin YMCA has already secured \$964,000.00 from Department of Economic Development and RACP funding.

The YMCA broke ground for the project in September 2008. The grand opening of the Senior Wellness Center is slated for April 2009.

Grantville Area Food Pantry:

Rev. George Robertson and Richard Williams, Faith United Church of Christ, presented a grant application for a new facility adjacent to the current building in Grantville. The total grant request is \$227,288.00.

The Grantville Area Food Pantry, also known as the Grantville Ministerium/Faith United Church of Christ, has hauled, stocked and distributed 700,000 pounds of food donated by individuals and food drives. The Food Pantry serves low-income and underserved residents of the Grantville area. A local share grant would be used for the following purposes: construct a new addition to the present Food Pantry facility; hire a part-time case manager; and purchase a van. The beneficial outcomes would be: improved services and accessibility, creation of a one-stop shop, and continuum of care.

Hollywood Casino has contributed \$10,000 each year for the last two years to the Food Pantry's budget, which is \$37,000. The Grantville Area Food Pantry is a volunteer organization.

Adjournment

Mr. Groves adjourned the hearing at 8:00 p.m.