

# **GAMING ADVISORY BOARD** **MINUTES OF MARCH 09, 2023**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Gaming Advisory Board of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on March 9, 2023 at 5pm.

Chairman/President Taillon- This is a meeting where we get together and review grant applications that have been submitted and are requesting funding from what is the City's Statute of the Gaming Advisory Committee. Which is essentially 4% funding that's based on a lot of different factors of net income for the city. So, this year we have approximately \$500,000 that we will potentially give out to organizations. Um, I want to let everybody know that all the organizations that apply are not for profit. Um, the way we move forward with this process is by reviewing applications which you will hear us talk about today. We will get through a certain number of them for our first meeting. However, we will not move to approve any of the dollar amounts until the final meeting. So, today will be for more discussion purposes. We had a work-study session before this and we talked through some applications... um, sometimes there's more information that's needed for some. And a lot of times we have organizations that have applied in the past that have a proven history of success, which makes it a lot easier to approve going forward. My name is Phil Taillon if I didn't say. I am the chair of this committee based on the statute because I am currently the Chief of Staff. We also have the mayor's appointment to the committee, which is Marty Wielgos, Andrea Edwards, Laurie Czulno and Darlene Flores, and Sharon Szany. And we have the Council's appointments, which are Councilwoman Alexander, Councilwoman Venecz, Councilman Rakos and Melissa Farrell, and Garrick Alexander.

## ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Alexander, Czulno, Edwards, Farrell, Flores, Rakos, Szany, Venecz, Wielgos, Taillon

ABSENT: Alexander, G, Flores

TOTAL: 11

Chairman/President Taillon- For those at home that haven't seen this process in the past. Um, we will review applications and we will determine a dollar amount for organizations today. However, this year we had an application request in the amount of \$1,229,617.05. So, being that we have approximately \$500,000 that we're going to grant, that means that approximately \$729,000 plus will have to be cut from the application amounts that we receive. So, even though today we might approve a certain amount for an organization, by the end of the third meeting, that amount could actually get cut or potentially added to. And I want to make that clear to everybody at home. So, if you hear us approve an amount today, it does not mean it's final. It won't be finalized until the motion is made at the final meeting. We have two other meetings that are scheduled besides this one. Sue, do you have the dates for those meetings? The Second meeting will be on March 23, 2023, and the last meeting will be March 30, 2023. Thank you, Sharon. So, with that, we will start reviewing applications. Most of the applications I think are in alphabetical order, although there might be a few off. So, are there questions?

APPLICATION GRANT AWARDS

APPLICANT	REQUESTED \$	RECOMMENDED \$
American Legion Ham'd Post 168	6,500	6,500
American Veterans Collection Inc.	15,000	3,000
Anthem Church	35,000	5,000
Arts Ham'd Association	25,000	10,000
Assoc. for the Wolf Lake Initiative	600.00	600.00
Bishop Noll Institute	50,000	5,000
Books, Brushes and Bands	25,000	20,000*
Boys & Girls Club of NWI	9,700	9,700
Cash Charity Co.	8,000	DENIED

Councilwoman Venecz- Moved to decline the application due to overlapping services within the city.

Chairman/President Taillon – So, from time to time some applications the City of Hammond has other funding for organizations where we provide some of the same services that money is being requested for. I believe that's what Councilwoman Venecz is saying. We have some programs and services that are very similar. So, she's requesting that we deny this application.

Marty Wielgos- I agree with that.

Chairman/President Taillon – We will deny that application due to duplication of services.

Challenger Learning Center of NWI	20,000	15,000*
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Chairman/President Taillon – Mr. Wielgos serve on the board for the Challenger's Center, so he will abstain from any recommendations, as far as, amounts.

Ophelia Steen Center	20,000	20,000
Daughters of Destiny Enterprises, Inc	50,000	DENIED*

Chairman/President Taillon – I do know in downtown Hammond we have the Hub of Innovations where the Hammond Development Corporation is offering a very similar program. We will deny that application due to duplication of services.

APPLICATION GRANT AWARDS cont.

4 Quarters 4 Life	15,000	4,700
Families & Friends of NWI	20,000	REVIEW STATUS*

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**MINUTES OF MARCH 09, 2023 cont.**

PUBLIC EXPRESSION including ZOOM Viewers  
None

Councilwoman Venecz, supported by Andrea Edwards, moved to adjourn.


ROLL CALL(adjourn meeting)

PRESENT: Alexander, Czulno, Edwards, Farrell, Flores, Rakos, Szany, Venecz, Wielgos, Taillon

ABSENT: Alexander, G, Flores

TOTAL: 11

APPROVED:



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Phil Taillon, President  
Gaming Advisory Board

ATTEST:



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Robert J. Golec, Hammond City Clerk

Time: 5:30pm  
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