

GAMING ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2022

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Gaming Advisory Board of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on March 8, 2022 at 5pm.

Chairman/President Taillon – informed everyone that he was the Chief of Staff and also the Chairman of the Gaming Committee. We are excited to get started with this year’s grant requests and review. Hopefully a lot of approvals for a lot of great organizations.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Mabry

TOTAL: 10

Chairman/President Taillon – stated that for the folks that are tuning in at home and watching live, this is a commission that was put together by the City Council and the Mayor, it’s by ordinance. A certain percentage of funds will go into this account every year based on the annual budget and revenues for the City of Hammond. Last time we did this in 2021, obviously it was a covid year, and I think we had approximately \$300,000 that we were able to grant to a lot of needy organizations. This year, fortunately, we are at about \$550,000. Hopefully we are going to have a lot great requests this year from organizations and be able to give money to groups that are using it for a lot of important things in the City of Hammond. We did have a work study session right before this and we had some discussions to talk through, applications and organizations so that we are familiar with them. Just so you know if anyone of us is a board member for an organization, we will abstain from the discussion, as far as, for an approval amount for that organization. However, we do tap into the knowledge of that board member since they do have intimate knowledge of the organization that they serve. One more time for those that are watching at home, I just want to make it clear that the way we do this is, we are going to start going through applications, because we are working toward an amount. It’s very difficult to know whether at the end of going through all the applications, we’ll have extra money or we will be short money. So, what we will do is come up with an approved amount that the commission is comfortable with and then at the end if we have additional dollars, we are looking at certain organizations that maybe we can give some additional dollars to or unfortunately, if we go over the amount we will have to go back and take some dollars away. So those watching from home if you hear an approval today, a verbal approval, unfortunately we cannot give 100% approval until a motion is made at the third and final meeting.

APPLICATION GRANT AWARDS

<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>REQUESTED \$</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED \$</u>
American Legion Ham’d Post 168	21,190	6,000
American Veterans Collection Inc.	15,000	4,000
Assoc. for the Wolf Lake Initiative	600	600

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APPLICATION GRANT AWARDS cont.

<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>REQUESTED \$</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED \$</u>
Bishop Noll Institute	50,000	10,000
Books, Brushes and Bands	25,000	10,000*
Boys & Girls Club of NWI	9,932	9,932
Cause 4Paws Gary	4,500	DENIED

Marty Wielgos – I would suggest that at this time we deny the request, only because of the fact that you stated we have our own Hammond Animal Shelter, here in Hammond. I know they are constantly struggling with the same requests that this organization is asking for. So, my suggestion would be we deny this.

Chairman/President Taillon – So, we have a suggestion to deny and focus on some of the same services with some of the Hammond organizations, not saying they don't service some Hammond, but organizations that are located in Hammond that are specifically only to Hammond. Any other questions or comments?

Darlene Flores – I would agree with that, the City of Gary should also have their own gaming funds, so they can apply within their own city.

Chairman/President Taillon – That is a good point as well. Any other comments? For now, we will put a no on this one.

Center of Workforce Innovations	118,162	PUT TO SIDE*
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Chairman/President Taillon – During our study session when we were discussing this, Marty Wielgos brought up that there was a question how the Center of Workforce Innovations Adult Education is funded. I believe you believe the State of Indiana actually funds them?

Marty Wielgos – I took a little closer look at the return that was included in their application. If everybody would like to look at schedule B, looks like it's page 2. The US Department of Labor total contribution \$9,621,000, US Department of Education \$466,000, Indiana Department of Work First Development \$1,460,000 and US Department of Treasury \$377,000.

Chairman/President Taillon – So your question then becomes the need for the grant on top of the funding they are currently receiving, correct?

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APPLICATION GRANT AWARDS cont.

Marty Wielgos – That would be my concern, in the fact that we have programs within the city itself that tried to do these various activities. My recommendation would be that we try to funnel those dollars to the same organizations within the city to help further them along.

Chairman/President Taillon – If it pleases the commission, I will reach out to Lisa Dougherty directly and have a conversation with her about their current funding and their request for additional funding. If that's good with everybody and how about we table it and we'll come back to it?

Darlene Flores – Could you also find out the relationship with the Hammond Career Center?

Chairman/President Taillon – Absolutely, did you see something listed on there?

Darlene Flores – Yes.

Challenger Learning Center of NWI	30,000	10,000*
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Chairman/President Taillon – Myself and Mr. Wielgos serve on the board for the Challenger's Center, so we will abstain from any recommendations, as far as, amounts.

Daughters of Destiny Enterprises, Inc	50,000	PASSED*
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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. I've been to a few of the classes before and I know it's operating right now, because they had a class there last week, when I went into the building.

Marty Wielgos – I think, Mr. President, not only do we have that great facility in downtown Hammond, but we also have Purdue University located right here in Hammond that is expending that project. Actually, looking at acquiring another building to specifically do that and expand their portion of that.

Chairman/President Taillon – So we have two (2) organizations in Hammond that are currently doing this that we are aware of.

Darlene Flores – Mr. President, I would suggest that we pass on this.

4 Quarters 4 Life	15,000	4,700
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Chairman/President Taillon – The budget says, 2020 Hammond Indiana 4 Quarter 4 Life sports mentoring camps, 200 participants, t-shirts and camp banner is \$2,000, camp supplies and equipment \$1,500, care project \$1,000, project coordinator \$2,500, instructors, referee's, volunteer's

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APPLICATION GRANT AWARDS cont.

Chairman/President Taillon cont. – \$5,500, insurance \$500, food and beverages \$1,500, travel transportation and lodging \$1,750, facilities \$1,800 and participant awards \$1,200. Any suggestions from the board?

Marty Wielgos – You know Mr. President, going through their expenditure request I think I would feel comfortable of especially us designating some amounts of money that we would grant. So, the first one would be the t-shirts and camp banner and then I would also say that we should do the food/beverages and participants awards.

Chairman/President Taillon – So all together you're asking for \$4,700 for approval?

Marty Wielgos – That is correct.

Genesius Guild	5,000	5,000
Girls on the Run of NWI	10,000	7,500
Greater Ham'd Community Srv, Inc.	25,000	15,000
Habitat for Humanity NWI, Inc.	9,000	5,000*
Hammond Academy of Science & Technology Athletics	10,000	5,000*

Marty Wielgos – I have to recuse myself because I sit on this board.


Chairman/President Taillon – This concludes our first day of the Hammond Gaming Advisory Committee. The next meeting is on March 22, 2022, 4pm will be the study session and 5pm will be the meeting here in Council Chambers.

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PUBLIC EXPRESSION including ZOOM Viewers
None


Marty Wielgos, supported by Sharon Szany, moved to adjourn.

AYES: ALL

APPROVED: 

Phil Taillon, President
Gaming Advisory Board

ATTEST:



Robert J. Golec, Hammond City Clerk

Time: 5:50pm
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