

Upper Delaware Council
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Feb. 23, 2011
(Changed from Feb. 22)

Committee Members Present: Keesler, Rando, Richardson, Niflot, Roeder, Rajsz
Peckham
NPS Partner: McGuinness
Staff: Douglass. Soete, Coney, Ramie
Guests: E. Jackson, J. Weiner, L. McFadden, A. Boyar, A. Ritter

The UDC's Operations Committee held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011 at the Council office in Narrowsburg, NY. Committee Chairperson Dolores Keesler called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. A motion by Rajsz seconded by Niflot to approve the Jan. 25 meeting minutes was carried. There was no public comment on the agenda.

PR/Fund Raising Specialist's Report: Ramie reviewed her written report handed out. She's in the planning stages for the April 17 awards ceremony. Central House in Beach Lake has been booked for the event. An invitation has been issued to the keynote speaker but no reply as yet. UDC is soliciting nominations for awards in ten categories and press release has been issued. The nomination deadline is March 11. As to the NYS grant through NYS DEC, no executed state contract has been received even though the grant application packet was returned to the state on June 2. Three of the five New York towns have already completed their projects. Upper Delaware Scenic Byway activities were listed in the written report to be read at leisure. Ramie participated in the D & H Transportation Heritage Council meeting Jan. 26, the Jan. 28 scoping meeting for the Sullivan County Planning Local Waterfront Redevelopment Program grant project, the Feb. 10 Project Review Committee work session, and the Feb. 15 Pond Eddy Bridge Project Team teleconference. Welcome letters have been issued to the newly elected PA and NYS governors along with information about the Council. She's in the process of working on setting up a meeting with Nan Haworth.

Peckham asked if the Byway paid for her services. McGuinness noted the NPS funds cover her salary that includes assisting the Byway group. The Byway activities compliment the Council's mandate. Rajsz noted the Byway has given a donation to the UDC for staff assistance and facility usage in the amount of \$2,750 this year.

Ramie continued her report. She is preparing the spring/summer newsletter that should be mailed April 1; doing mailing address database corrections.

Keesler mentioned that she'd like to have the committee discuss the 1993 fund raising plan passed by resolution. She'd have copies done for the committee for the next meeting.

Niflot asked how many returns are we getting from the newsletter mailing; Ramie noted about 200-400 every mailing, but that's counting every change. The UDC pays for each returned piece. The database has 9,885 names now and the newsletter is issued through a postal bulk mailing permit. We encourage people to read the newsletter online.

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

Old Business None

New Business

Summary of bills / financial statements: The committee reviewed the summary of pending bills. A motion by Richardson seconded by Rajsz to approve the bills for payment was carried. The financial statements for period ended Jan. 31 were handed out for review.

FY11 Federal Funding Update: Coney reported federal funds have been received for October through December; January, February, and March funds have been requested and are pending. We're still under the federal appropriations continuing resolution until March 2. McGuinness noted NPS will know more about funding allowances after action is taken on the continuing resolution. If the government shuts down, UDC

will get no money, and the UDC will have to decide what it wants to do. Additionally, NPS may get hit with an assessment (budget cut) and they'll have to look at their current budget and make cuts to meet the assessment. McGuinness noted that UDC might also be asked to share in any assessment as well.

Requests for Travel Meetings: Rajsiz inquired if staff was attending the March 10 water quality forum web cast at the Sullivan County Community College as mentioned at the February UDC meeting. Staff had not planned on attending. McGuinness said someone from his staff may be attending and could carpool with UDC staff. Douglass said someone from staff would attend and the committee approved the travel.

FY 2010 Progress Report to NPS required through the Cooperative Agreement: Coney referenced a handout provided to the committee she prepared, FY 2010 Annual Progress Report, which was submitted to the NPS regional office. This progress report is based on the committee work plans and is a new document required under the annual deliverables within the Cooperative Agreement with NPS.

Fundraising Ideas: Richardson noted that with the successful effort to raffle off a photo at the EagleFest as a fundraising project, maybe we should do something similar at the UDC awards ceremony. Ramie was concerned with the tax implications. Richardson suggested looking into any permits that are needed or maybe get a sponsor to cover some projects for us. Ramie would look into the state regulations before proceeding.

Public Comment None

Adjournment A motion by Peckham seconded by Rajsiz to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. was carried.

Carol Coney, Office Manager