

HORSHAM LAND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY • April 21, 2021 • 3:30 PM

In Attendance:

Authority Board

W. William Whiteside, III, Chair
Eric Coombs
Mark McCouch (by Zoom)
Joseph Wade

HLRA Staff

Michael J. McGee
Tom Ames
Larry Burns
William Gildea-Walker
Mary Eberle, Esquire

Not Present:

Joanna M. Furia Esq., Vice Chair

Chairman Whiteside called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in the Horsham Township Building at 1025 Horsham Road, Horsham PA 19044 and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Mr. Whiteside asked if there were any questions or comments from the public, there were none.

Mr. Whiteside asked for the will of the Board regarding minutes of the HLRA meeting on January 20, 2021. It was moved by Mr. McCouch, second by Mr. Coombs to approve the minutes for the January 20, 2021 HLRA meeting. All voted in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Whiteside asked Mr. McGee for the Executive Director's Report.

Mr. McGee noted that he had provided Board members with the financial update prior to the meeting. He noted that the current grant, funded through the DOD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) (formerly OEA) has been extended to July 31, 2021. This action was supported by OLDCC staff as it will result in better utilization of the current funds and avoid a return of monies to the general fund at the federal level. The HLRA staff is working on applying for a follow-on grant; the challenge is determining the level of funding needed for the future.

Mr. McGee provided the following updates:

Shenandoah Woods: The long process of disposing the former Navy Housing project from the federal government is coming to a conclusion. In early June 2021 the Navy is scheduled to transfer the property to the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority and Warminster Township. Mr. McGee noted that a recent fire burned three housing units. Concerns remain over the security of the property. The litigation related to the Aldie Foundation has been resolved; Warminster Township issued a check as part of the settlement of the case. No further issues remain.

Air National Guard: Mr. McGee noted that the new base commander will arrive soon. The Stormwater Treatment Plant which will reduce the amount of PFAS leaving the base is under construction and will be completed in 2021.

South East Clear Zone: The National Park Service is in the final stages of preparing the deed to transfer this parcel to Horsham Township.

Navy: The Navy continues to work on environmental issues. Their initial groundwater pump & treat pilot plant continues to operate; over 10M gallons of groundwater have been treated. A second pilot system on the Horsham Road side of the base will be operational soon. The Navy is planning on using the old Army Reserve hangar by the FAA Tower to house the treatment system for the final Pump & Treat system for the base. It will use similar components to the facilities built by the Horsham Water & Sewer Authority to address the PFAS contamination in the groundwater. The Navy is also continuing repairs to the base's stormwater piping by sealing leaking joints in the pipes. These repairs will help stop PFAS contaminated groundwater from entering the stormwater pipes and will hopefully reduce the amount of PFAS leaving the base.

HLRA Audit: Mr. McGee noted that the draft audit report has been received. There were no significant findings reported.

Mr. Whiteside asked for an update on the potential gate relocation at the Biddle Air National Guard Base (formerly Horsham Air Guard Station). Mr. McGee noted that letters of support had been sent from the HLRA and Horsham Township but no update had been received from the Air Guard. He noted that funding for the project remains the main issue. Mr. Walker stated that staff retirements at the base and the imminent arrival of the new Base Commander were also factors.

Mr. Whiteside asked Ms. Eberle for the Solicitor's Report. Ms. Eberle noted that she keeps up to date on HLRA matters and is available whenever the need arises.

Mr. Whiteside asked for the will of the Board regarding the list of checks. It was moved by Mr. Combs, seconded by Mr. Wade, to approve the list of checks in the amount of \$51,274.09 covering the period from January 21, 2021 to April 21, 2021. All voted in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Mr. McGee reminded the Board that the HLRA has a lease with the Navy and a sub-lease with the Delaware Valley Historical Aircraft Association (DVHAA) for the DVHAA's Museum and Restoration Areas at the former base. Also included is a license and sub-license relating to provision of electrical service to DVHAA facilities. He expressed hope that the future redevelopment of the base will include a robust aviation museum. The current lease expires soon and the DVHAA has expressed a desire to continue its operation. . It was moved by Mr. McCouch, seconded by Mr. Coombs, to approve a two year extension of the lease and license between the Navy and the HLRA. All voted in favor, motion passed unanimously. Mr. McGee noted that the signed sub-lease and sub-license were expected soon from the DVHAA but he recommended moving ahead with those approvals. It was moved by Mr. McCouch, seconded by Mr. Coombs, to approve a two year extension of the sub-lease and sub-license between the HLRA and the DVHAA. All voted in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Whiteside announced that the next Horsham Land Redevelopment Authority meeting would be on July 21, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. in the Horsham Township Municipal Building. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.



William T. Gildea-Walker

HLRA Secretary