

The regular meeting of the Grant Review Committee was held on the above date with Committee member Jim Young, Town Council member Robert McGhee and Town Manager Morris Deputy present with Louis Vitola, Town Financial Manager, presiding.

**ITEM 1: Validation Reports**

The committee received one validation report from the M.O.T. Big Ball Marathon Committee to validate the expenditure of a \$5,000 grant it received during FY'08 for the M.O.T. Safety Net fund. The Big Ball Committee e-mailed an accounting system export of financial data showing how the entire \$5,000 was spent to help residents in the M.O.T. area with utility bills and other needs.

Mr. Vitola suggested the committee make a recommendation to Mayor and Council to approve the validation report. The Committee agreed.

**ITEM 2: Stone Square Lodge #22 – Clementon Amusement Park trip**

Prior to discussion, Mr. Vitola cited the following notes regarding the grant:

**The group has requested \$500 to support its initiative to send underprivileged children Clementon Park free of charge**

▶ Application Materials – Good – The Application was submitted on time according to the policy

▶ Organization Type – Not Determined – The Stone Square Lodge is not recognized under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. In order for the group to be eligible for a Municipal Assistance Grant, by process of elimination, it must be a community-oriented program having beneficiaries in the M.O.T. Area. Bill Saunders, a representative of the Lodge, attended the meeting and said the Lodge has non-profit status from its affiliation with the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grant Lodge of Delaware. However, the Grant Review Committee has yet to receive documentation supporting this application.

▶ Quantitative Factors – Good – (amount, stats, time)

The **amount** of the grant request is reasonable. The total cost of the trip is well in excess of \$500, which will be supported by the Lodge, parents and guardians who are able to pay.

The **timing** of the grant request is reasonable – the group attended the park on July 5.

▶ Qualitative Factors – Good – (benefit, response, financial viability, need, organizational duplication)

The **benefit to the community as a whole** is less clear than grant requests supporting educational, athletic, or vocational initiatives. There may be some

benefit to the community in the form of goodwill toward a group of 25-30 children building friendships at an amusement park.

The **community response** is perceived to be mixed.

The **financial viability** is evident – \$500 is sufficient to purchase admission to the park for 10-15 underprivileged children.

The **need** is evident based on a conversation with Regi Ashley, who indicated that there are less community grants available amid the poor economy, and higher fuel costs increase the total cost of the trip for the Lodge, parents, and guardians.

There is no evidence of **organizational or operational duplication** – this is a unique event in our community (for which a grant was solicited) and the group hasn't solicited funding at any time in the past.

**Discussion:**

The Committee decided to table this grant until further information is provided.