

GAMING ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2026

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Gaming Advisory Board of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana was held on 3/18/2026 at 5 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Czulno, Dorsey, Dybel, Farrell, Roberts, Salinas, Sandoval, Szany, Venecz, Miller

ABSENT: Alexander, Szany

TOTAL: 10

Chairman /President Scott Miller – I am pleased to report that commission has agreed on the organizations they are to support for the upcoming year. I mentioned at the first meeting we received the highest amount of applications ever, it was a hundred and sixteen applications, so we certainly appreciate the interest. The Mayor has talked about this publicly so I don't mind mentioning this as well this commission even a few years ago before the opening of Hard Rock casino would have over \$2.5 million dollars to disperse. This year's funding amount is \$438,307, so we don't have as much as traditionally. I still think this is a great blessing to the community and I know many of these organizations personally and I'm very pleased we can continue to support so many of them including several first timers that we are able to support as well, so I'm going to begin. If you are watching online it's going to go in alphabetical order with a few exceptions of paper applications at the very end that are out of alphabetical order, but otherwise we are going to go through, and I'll announce the amount and the organization and request a motion and a second. Then we will take a vote and move on to the next one.

APPLICATION GRANT AWARDS

<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>RECEIVED \$</u>
*Ballet Folklorico Yolotzin	\$1,000
Motioned by Salinas, Second by Venecz	Motion carries
*Benjamin Franklin Elementary	\$1,000
Motioned by Roberts, Second by Farrell	Motion carries
*Bishop Noll Institute	\$5,000
Motioned by Salinas, Second by Dorsey	Motion carries
*Books, Brushes & Bands for Education	\$10,000
Motioned by Venecz, Czulno abstained by Farrell	Motion carries
*Boys & Girls Club of Greater Northwest Indiana	\$5,000
Motioned by Sandoval, Second by Dorsey	Motion carries
*Challenger Learning Center of Northwest Indiana	\$10,000
Motioned by Salinas, Second by Dybel	Motion carries
*Ophelia Steen Family & Health Center	\$10,000
Motioned by Farrell, Second by Dorsey	Motion carries
*Department Of Defense Honor Guard	\$5,000
Motioned by Venecz, Second by Czulno	Motion carries

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APPLICATION GRANT AWARDS cont.

APPLICANT	RECEIVED \$
*Edison Elementary School Motioned by Dybel, Second by Roberts	\$1,000 Motion carries
*Excel Youth Programs, Inc Motioned by Venecz, Second by Roberts	\$5,000 Motion carries
*Family & Friends of NWI Motioned by Salinas, Second by Dorsey	\$2,000 Motion carries
*Freedome Center Indiana, Inc Motioned by Venecz, Second by Dorsey	\$3,000 Motion carries
*Girls on the Run Crossroads Motioned by Farrell, Second by Dorsey	\$5,000 Motion carries
*Greater Hammond Community Services Motioned by Sandoval, Second by Dorsey	\$10,000 Motion carries
*Hammond Academy of Science & Technology - Classroom Library Motioned by Czulno, Second by Dybel	\$750 Motion carries
*Hammond Academy of Science & Technology - New Student Media Program Motioned by Venecz, Second by Roberts	\$2,000 Motion carries
*Hammond Boxing Club Motioned by Dorsey, Second by Dybel	\$5,000 Motion carries
*Hammond Central Athletics Motioned by Sandoval, Second by Venecz abstained by Dorsey	\$20,000 Motion carries
*Hammond Community Watch Motioned by Czulno, Second by Dybel abstained by Venecz	\$10,000 Motion carries
*Hammond Development Corporation Motioned by Roberts, Second by Dybel abstained by Salinas & Miller	\$5,000 Motion carries
*Hammond Family YMCA Motioned by Dybel, Second by Czulno	\$5,000 Motion carries
*Hammond Hermits Motioned by Salinas, Second by Czulno	\$5,000 Motion carries
*Hammond Hispanic Community Committee of Northern Indiana Motioned by Venecz, Second by Dorsey	\$3,000 Motion carries
*Hammond Hurricanes Motioned by Venecz, Second by Roberts	\$5,000 Motion carries
*Hammond Mohawks ACC Motioned by Salinas, Second by Roberts	\$3,500 Motion carries
*Hammond Optimist Youth Sports Motioned by Dybel, Second by Dorsey	\$5,000 Motion carries

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APPLICATION GRANT AWARDS cont.

APPLICANT	RECEIVED \$
*Hammond Parks Foundation	\$5,000
Motioned by Sandoval, Second by Czulno	Motion carries
*Hammond Public Library	\$3,000
Motioned by Sandoval, Second by Venecz	Motion carries
* Hammond Reads, Inc.	\$10,000
Motioned by Venecz, Second by Dybel	Motion carries
*Hammond RedHawks	\$5,000
Motioned by Dorsey, Second by Venecz	Motion carries
*Hammond Theatre Company	\$4,000
Motioned by Dybel, Second by Dorsey	Motion carries
*Harding Elementary School	\$1,000
Motioned by Venecz, Second by Dorsey	Motion carries
*Haven House, Inc.	\$10,000
Motioned by Venecz, Second by Sandoval	Motion carries
*Hc3	\$15,000
Motioned by Dorsey, Second by Venecz abstained by Salinas	Motion carries
*Hessville Community Service Post #232 of The American Legion	\$5,000
Motioned by Dybel, Second by Czulno	Motion carries
*Hessville Little League	\$5,000
Motioned by Venecz , Second by Dorsey	Motion carries
*Hope Angels Fund	\$5,000
Motioned by Farrell , Second by Venecz	Motion carries
*Hope Center of Northwest Indiana	\$5,000
Motioned by Czulno , Second by Dybel	Motion carries
*Innermission Inc	\$5,000
Motioned by Venecz , Second by Dorsey	Motion carries
*Knights Travel Corporation	\$4,000
Motioned by Dorsey , Second by Venecz	Motion carries
*Lake County Fire Chiefs Association Inc	\$5,000
Motioned by Dorsey , Second by Venecz	Motion carries
*Lakeshore Cal Ripken Babe Ruth	\$5,000
Motioned by Dybel, Second by Czulno	Motion carries
*Lincoln Elementary School	\$1,000
Motioned by Farrell, Second by Dybel	Motion carries
*Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana	\$5,000
Motioned by Venecz, Dorsey	Motion carries
*Mental Health America of NW Indiana	\$10,000
Motioned by Sandoval, Second by Czulno	Motion carries

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APPLICATION GRANT AWARDS cont.

APPLICANT	RECEIVED \$
*Montessori Children's Schoolhouse Motedioned by Sandoval, Second by Venecz	\$5,000 Motion carries
*Morton High School Athletics Motedioned by Czulno, Second by Dybel	\$20,000 Motion carries
*New Community Baptist Church Motedioned by Venecz, Second by Roberts	\$1,000 Motion carries
*New Hope Baptist Church Community College Day Motedioned by Dorsey, Second by Venecz	\$2,000 Motion carries
*New Hope Too Community Center Motedioned by Venecz, Second by Dorsey	\$5,000 Motion carries
*Northlake Pop Warner Motedioned by Dybel, Second by Salinas	\$5,000 Motion carries
*NW Indiana Rugby Club Motedioned by Farrell, Second by Dorsey	\$5,000 Motion carries
*Optimist Club of Hammond Motedioned by Salinas, Second by Czulno	\$5,000 Motion carries
*Paladin, Inc. Motedioned by Dorsey, Second by Venecz	\$5,000 Motion carries
*Purdue University Northwest Motedioned by Venecz, Second by Dybel	\$5,000 Motion carries
*Area Career Center Facility Updates / Survive Alive House Motedioned by Venecz, Second by Salinas	\$15,000 Motion carries
*Hammond Robotics Motedioned by Salinas, Second by Roberts	\$20,000 Motion carries
*South Shore Arts Inc Motedioned by Farrell, Second by Roberts	\$5,000 Motion carries
*St. Casmir School Motedioned by Salinas, Second by Sandoval	\$5,000 Motion carries
*St. John Bosco School Motedioned by Dorsey, Second by Czulno abstained by Salinas	\$5,000 Motion carries
*St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church Motedioned by Dybel, Second by Salinas	\$5,000 Motion carries
*The Gatehouse of Hammond Motedioned by Venecz, Second by Dybel	\$5,000 Motion carries
*Towle Performing Arts Company Motedioned by Salinas, Second by Dorsey	\$20,000 Motion carries

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APPLICATION GRANT AWARDS cont.

<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>RECEIVED \$</u>
*Trinty Evangelical Lutheran Church	\$2,000
Motioned by Venecz, Second by Dybel	Motion carries
*Knights Of Columbus Pierogi Drop Project	\$5,000
Motioned by Czulno, Second by Dorsey, abstained by Dybel	Motion carries
*Hammond Firefighters Association Local 556	\$10,000
Motioned by Venecz, Second by Roberts	Motion carries
*Mt. Zion AR Burns Pleasant View Plaza	\$5,000
Motioned by Farrell, Second by Sandoval	Motion carries
*Firefighters Monument Corporation of Hammond, IN	\$3,000
Motioned by Dybel, Second by Salinas	Motion carries
*World's Fastest Triathlon DBA Leon's Triathlon	\$10,000
Motioned by Salinas, Second by Dorsey	Motion carries
*Hammond Mohawk Hockey Club	\$5,000
Motioned by Farrell, Second by Venecz	Motion carries
*Prom Genie Inc.	\$10,000
Motion by Dybel, Second by Czulno	Motion carries

Chairman /President Scott Miller – That concludes the awards for this year. We were able to award \$438,250 out of a budget \$438,307, we used nearly every dollar to help support our community and the programs and the people who serve our community. Congratulations to all the awards recipients. There is a matter of business that is not fun to do. I am told we must do this each year. I do have to read off, and I'll entertain a motion, a group motion. We don't have to do each one individually for the groups that did apply and are not receiving an award this year. I'll entertain a motion for the following, that the Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative, Catholic Church of the Diocese of Gary, Cause 4 Paws Gary, Charles N. Scott Middle School, Crisis Center, Inc., Crossroads National Veterans Museum, Cursive Academy, Delivering Hope, Dunebrook, Inc., Forest Heights Community Garden, Genesius Guild, Greater First Baptist Church, Green Leaf Web Studios, H.W. Eggers Middle School, Hammond Area Career Center - Student Services, Hammond Central High School - Student Excellence & Recognition Initiative, Hammond Central High School – High Quality Instructional Material, Hammond Central High School - Angel Closet , Hammond Central's Giving Tree, Ida Bell Foundation, Image Ministries Co., In-Pact, Inc., Love, Inc. of Greater Hammond, Northwest Indiana Symphony Society, Inc., Off the Cover News Inc., School City of Hammond - Family Resource Room, School City of Hammond - Back to School Registration & Enrollment Celebration, School City of Hammond - Science Sets, School City of Hammond - Hammond Early Learning Center, School City of Hammond - HAPA Eggers Middle School Band and Choir, School City of Hammond - Hammond Arts and Performance Academy Rock Band, School City of Hammond – Hammond Performing Arts Center/Visual Communication, School City of Hammond - Alternative Education - Primary Focus - Eggers Middle School, School City of Hammond Early Learning Center, Hammond

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Arts and Performance Academy - Marching Band Jackets, Hammond Arts and Performance Academy Visual Arts, Hammond Arts and Performance Academy Percussion Instruments and Supplies, Hammond Arts and Performance Academy Dance - Dance Mats & Apparel, Hammond Arts and Performance Academy - Scott Middle School Choir, Sisters Who Will, SK8 America Fitness & Educational Development Corporation, Stressbusters, Inc., The Go Church, Chicago, Thomas Edison Elementary School (Music Program), Whiting - Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce I will take a motion for all of those in acknowledgement, they will not be receiving funding in this year.

Dybel, supported by Venecz, moved to approve all motions made. AYES: ALL

Chairman / President Scott Miller – If your name was on the list and did not receive, it doesn't mean that we don't believe in your work or your mission. But again, with the \$400,000.00 we looked to see how we can bless as many organizations as possible and fill their needs. We looked at things like where you're located and what your Hammond presence is, and they are challenging decisions. But I am very proud of the work this committee has done. We exhibited really good teamwork and we listened to each other, we changed our minds, and I think we came up with the best list that we could for this year. With that said, I'd like to open the floor to any of the Committee Members for any final comments.

Councilman Salinas – I just want to say, great job, to Mr. Miller over these past couple of years now. He kept things very organized and kept us all on track. Thank you.

Chairman/ President Miller – Thank you.

Councilwoman Venecz – I echo those sentiments and to those who didn't receive a grant this year, please don't be discouraged. The work that you do is wonderful work and we admire the efforts that all of you put forth for our city and it's just there is a finite amount of money and we just can't make it stretch. Thank you, Mr. President.

Chairman/ President Miller – You're welcome. A couple of other orders of business I'll just mention. If you were an award recipient, unfortunately, you just can't show up tomorrow and get a check. We will go through the process. It's usually by late spring towards the end of May, we have the checks available for people, and we will be in contact with you, and how you can pick up your check. The other order of business is this is a public meeting. I do need open to public comment.

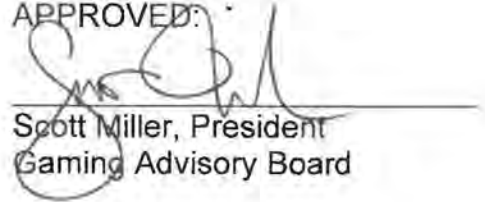
PUBLIC EXPRESSION (Including ZOOM Viewers)
None

Venecz, supported by Dorsey, moved to adjourn.

AYES: ALL

GAMING ADVISORY BOARD
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APPROVED: *



Scott Miller, President
Gaming Advisory Board

ATTEST:



Robert J. Golec, Hammond City Clerk

Time: 5:36 pm
cb