

Hot Springs Village Property Owners Association

Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) 2017-2018 Annual Report

COMMITTEE PURPOSE

To advise and assist the POA Board of Directors in enhancing Village relationships with area, local, state and federal government agencies, elected officials, and abutting school districts.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assist the Board of Directors in keeping abreast of developments in the public sector that could impact Hot Springs Village.
- Assist in transmitting the POA's positions on issues to public officials and governmental agencies.
- Seek and recommend talent who would be willing to serve on strategic local and state boards and commissions.
- Sponsor functions for local, state and federal officials.

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

- *A Brief History Of The GAC From 2000-2017* was authored by GAC member, Jerry Yeric. (See Appendix 1)
- Completed the Medical and Healthcare Survey and Directory (See Appendix 2). Submitted a gap analysis for Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP) consultants. Consulted with Saline Health Systems on locations near HSV.
- Created a broadband gap analysis for CMP consultants. Continued high-priority search for solutions to obtain Village-wide broadband coverage.
- Supported area highway improvement projects.
- Added new committee members contributing in areas of broadband, hsvgac.com, and healthcare surveys.
- Added POA operational activity reports to committee meetings.
- Added Fountain Lake and Jessieville School District Superintendents as school liaisons.
- Added Hot Springs Village Area Chamber of Commerce reports to committee meetings.

THE TEAM

Committee Members		HSVPOA Liaisons	
Gerald Allen, Chair*	Pam Avila*	John Weidert, President	HSVBOD
Michael Dollar, Chair*	Jim Harlow	Lesley Nalley, CEO	HSV Staff
Richard Johnson, V. Chair*	Bob Hebert*	Keith Keck	MetroPlan Representative
Cindy Calhoun, Sec.*	Greg Jones*	Regular County Liaisons (Justices of the Peace)	
David Whitlow, Sec.*	Keith Keck*	Larry Griffin	Garland, District 11
	Curt Malone	Larry Raney	Garland, District 13
	Lu Otto	James Zahnd	Saline, District 13
	Jerry Yeric	Regular School Liaisons (District Superintendents)	
Ex Officio Committee Members		Ralph Carter	Jessieville School District
Bob Shoemaker		Michael Murphy	Fountain Lake School District

*GAC personnel changes during the year were as follows:

- April 7, 2017 – New members Keith Keck and Bob Hebert introduced.
- May 5, 2017 - David Whitlow appointed GAC Secretary replacing Cindy Calhoun who resigned.

- June 2, 2017 - Greg Jones was appointed as an Ex-Officio member covering broadband and other technical services.
- Sep. 7, 2017 – Michael Dollar elected as Chair (formerly Vice Chair), replacing Gerald Allen who resigned; Richard Johnson elected as Vice Chair.
- Oct. 6, 2017 – New members Pamela Avila and Greg Jones (formerly an Ex-Officio member) introduced.

The work of the GAC is generally carried out by:

- Individual members who have standing assignments of liaison with governmental entities, local organizations and schools. Last year the assignments were as follows:
 - Pam Avila – hsvgac.com website admin
 - Michael Dollar – Hot Springs Village Area Chamber of Commerce
 - Jim Harlow – Retiree/Relocator Recruitment & HSV/ UALR Life Long Learning Institute
 - Richard Johnson – Healthcare and Medical Survey
 - Keith Keck - MetroPlan
 - Curt Malone – Saline County
 - Lu Otto - Demographics
 - Bob Shoemaker - Other local and State officials
 - David Whitlow – Tri-Lakes Metropolitan Planning Organization
 - Jerry Yeric - City of Hot Springs and Garland County.
- Ad hoc subcommittees of the GAC:
 - Candidate Forum sub-committee composed of GAC Members Jerry Yeric, Lu Otto, Bob Shoemaker, Pam Avila, and Bob Hebert, to organize a post-primary candidate forum at HSV.

County JP Volunteer Roles

JPs of the two counties comprising HSV represent the first level of local government beyond POA board members and, among other things, act as vital voices and advocates for HSV at the county and higher levels of government; keep the GAC abreast of county legislation, budget matters, plans, etc.; contribute to communications with other elected officials; work with GAC subcommittees and individual members on various projects. Their contributions are very important to the GAC in fulfilling its charge.

Other Contributors:

In addition to those shown above, it has been a tradition of the GAC to augment its resources by calling on others within the Hot Springs Village community as well as the greater community who have unique skills or resources needed for the Committee’s work.

In addition, many POA staff members provided on-going administrative, special assistance and meeting place set-up staff support in connection with GAC activities including Linda Mayhood, Ella Scotty, Nikki Saltmarsh and Michelle Brown.

Greatly appreciated is former GAC Chair, Gerald Allen, for providing significant contributions to this report.

Media coverage from Lewis Delavan of the Village Voice Newspaper has been greatly appreciated.

State, regional and local community officials and leaders contribute to the work of the Committee by participating as guest speakers during its meetings providing valuable information and stimulating productive interchange of ideas. Guest speakers during the year included the following:

Date	Speaker	Topic
Apr. 7, 2017	Scott Bennett, Director, Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT)	Presented a history of the agency, its structure and governance, current revenue and sources as compared to needs and, discussed the status of projects of local interest.
June 2, 2017	State Senator Bill Sample	Provided a summary of the recently concluded Regular Session of the Arkansas Legislature.
July 7, 2017	Dr. Ralph Carter, Supt., Jessieville School District	Presented a “state of the school” summary including a new Career Academy program for grades 9-12.
Aug. 4, 2017	Dr. Michael Murphy, Supt., Fountain Lake School Dist.	Presented a “state of the school” summary including the advantages experienced by having a charter school within a public school.
Oct. 6, 2017	Tony Houston, CEO, CHI St. Vincent, Hot Springs	Spoke about the mission and services available to the residents of HSV at CHI St. Vincent-Hot Springs; a brief history of Catholic care in Hot Springs and highlights of current services offered.
Feb. 2, 2018	Bob Trautman, CEO, Saline Health System	Gave a presentation about the changes that are occurring at Saline Health System in Benton, their top five goals, and addition of a care facility in HSV.

MEETINGS AND LOCATIONS

The GAC met on, April 7, May 4, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 3 and December 1 in 2017 and January 5, February 2, March 2 and April 6 (scheduled), 2018. All meetings were held in the Ouachita Events Building, Ponce de Leon Center, except the July and August meetings which were held at the Jessieville School District and Fountain Lake School Districts’ offices, respectively.

SUMMARY OF NEW AND CONTINUING INITIATIVES

Healthcare & Medical Services Study (Appendix 2)

To date a total of twenty-six individual physicians and healthcare practitioners have been identified who practice in the Hot Springs Village service area. This includes several primary care and medical specialists who practice on a part-time or rotating basis. The numbers by specialty or discipline are shown below:

- 11 - Family Practice/Internal Medicine
- 6 – Specialists
- 5 – Dentists
- 1 – Chiropractor
- 2 - Physical Therapy and Rehab Services
- 1 – Psychotherapist
- 1 - Home Care Service
- 1 - Skilled Nursing Facility

Under **Part II** of this study's report, an overview of Village demographics was developed providing an understanding of current and future Village medical service needs.

The following three key issues are addressed in the demographic report:

- What do studies of Village demographics reveal about the Village market for medical services?
- What can we learn from age-comparable population studies that inform projected rates of illness and mortality in the Village?
- What do age-comparable population studies reveal about issues and experiences that likely affect the health and well-being of the Village aged and elderly?

A list of practitioners and their contact information is being planned as a reference for Village residents.

Broadband

Over the last year the Government Affairs Committee has focused on the state of Broadband in the Village and has been contacted by many residents relaying issues with availability of service.

Our topography presents many challenges to the service providers. We have many areas that are remote geographically, have few residents, or were poorly planned during development for installation of equipment from service providers.

Within the Village, there are approximately 700 school age children. These students are issued Chromebooks by the schools which only operate when connected to a broadband network. These students must find alternative locations to get connected such as a friend's house, a McDonald's with free WIFI, etc.

Generally, we have 2 wireline service providers in Hot Springs Village. In addition to the wireline providers, several wireless operators have been marketing services to the Village with limited results. However, it is expected that many of the traditional wireless cellular carriers may expand their offerings to Village residents, but cellular coverage remains an issue. Alternative services are also available, but with significant cost disadvantages. Satellite Internet, Broadband wireless have been options, but these services come with steep costs, limited bandwidth, and data caps.

Potential strategic initiatives to explore for broader Broadband access have been suggested and may include:

- Enhance our current public WIFI service.
- Increase Relationships with existing carriers to facilitate their understanding of issues with Village broadband.
- Install a Village-operated broadband service using targeted wireless technology.

Transportation

Significant road improvements and additions have occurred, are underway, or are in planning stages.

- A Highway 5 safety improvement project between Benton and Hot Springs Village is complete except for straightening curves. Shoulder work and paving was completed. Shorter travel times to/from Benton, Little Rock and Hot Springs Village can be expected.
- Highway 70 east toward Interstate 30 improvements are well underway. In addition to roadway widening, the construction of Cedar Creek Bridge, Ten Mile Creek West Bridge, Ten Mile Creek Bridge, Caney Creek Bridge, and a traffic signal at Highway 128 is in various stages of construction and planning.

This route should ease traveling to/from Interstate 30 near Benton once completed. Completion is expected in late 2018.

- Plans are being evaluated in ARDOT public meetings for road improvements on North Highway 7 From Highway 5 to Hwy 298, construction of a bypass from the MLK Loop at Hwy 70 to a new Hwy 5 & 7 interchange, and Highway 5 improvements west of the 5/7 interchange.

State Legislative Goals and Activities

Significant legislative outcomes during the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature included the following:

- \$250,000 a year was appropriated to Parks and Recreation Department for purposes of attracting retirees/relocators to the State.
- Bills passed that provides improvements in the standards and financial support for foster children care.
- Important healthcare bills passed.
- Important bills that failed to pass included:
 - Senate bill providing collection of sales tax by on-liner sellers, producing revenues of up to \$100 million per year failed.
 - New highway funding bills.
 - In addition, a bill that would provide for certain homeowner associations to be eligible for certain state sponsored funding was withdrawn because of Attorney General opinion that it was not permitted by the Arkansas Constitution.

During this past session, the House filed 1,007 bills and the Senate filed 1,055. General Assembly Bill filings since 1997 have been:

Bill Type	2017	^2015	2013	2011	2009	2007	2005	2003	2001	*1999	1997
Totals	2062	2105	2530	2261	2311	2852	3221	2936	2683	2292	2064

- **1999 was the first session impacted by term limits law in the House*
- *^2015 first session after adoption of term limits extension but no impact on General Assembly*

Acknowledgment of Contributors

It has been my pleasure to contribute as GAC Chair. I am proud of the many accomplishments of our GAC members, elected officials, school representatives, and area leaders who make up this team. Hot Springs Village is a better place because of these community-minded individuals of which it is my honor to serve. Many thanks go to all who have supported and contributed to this committee, and special thanks to our POA Board Liaison, President John Weidert.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael L. Dollar, Chair

Attachments and URL Links:

Appendix 1 – *A Brief History of The Governmental Affairs Committee 2000-2017* - by Jerry L. Yeric

Appendix 2 - <http://www.hsvgac.com/healthcare-and-medical-services-report.html>

A Brief History Of The Governmental Affairs Committee 2000-2017

Jerry L. Yeric

Organizations adapt and change or they become obsolete and non-relevant. The history of the Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) is an excellent example of a committee that has changed and continues to adapt in its role and scope to the life of HSV. Today's Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) is a product of this evolution. The GAC was formed in 2000, three decades after the Village. Why the delay? There are several possible explanations. First, during the formative years HSV was led by its powerful developer who was well known in the state's economic and political circles. Second, as a new community, the focus was internal and the emphasis was on development and not on the integration into the surrounding communities. Third, with a powerful and well financed developer, decisions were seen in a different perspective. Fourth, the internal focus of the early years led to aversion toward the new "interlopers", people whose values and socio-economic status were not perceived as the same as those of the local residents. Regardless of the reasons, HSV had a difficult time assimilating. It was not that committees were not part of the community's master plan, for there were seven standing committees beginning in 1972. They were: Nominating, Recreation, Social, Construction & Maintenance, Architectural Control, Publicity and Audit. Through the years some have been eliminated, renamed and others added.

There have been three distinct periods in the history of the Governmental Affairs Committee. The first is the "Formative Period" (2000-2003), the second the "Stabilization Period" (2004-2010) and the third is the "Policy Period" (2011-2017). The first period, as the name implies, was a time when the GAC was developing its Charter, exploring issues that needed to be addressed, meeting with officials, and generally developing its approach and assigning responsibilities. During the "Stabilization Period" (2004-2010), the GAC had identified areas of long term importance to the Village, and honed its approach to the issues, established an operational pattern for interacting with officials, developed White Papers, initiated annual legislative luncheons at the state Capitol at the beginning of each legislative term, and developed relationships with public officials including the two school districts. The "Policy Period" (2011-2017) continued to build upon the preceding committee's work, and the focus changed more toward detailed information gathering and presentation. The committee's reports became more comprehensive, written in advance of the meetings to be shared with members of the GAC, the Board, the media and other interested parties. The periods represent a natural evolution of building upon past successes and altering approaches as needed. In each period unexpected issues would arise and the committee would address them in the manner most appropriate to the issue.

The Formative Years (2000-2003)

The origins of the GAC can be traced to the POA's Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) of 1999. Members of the SPC were: Tom Arwood, Virginia Watson, Ken Drake and Dave Johnson. At the same time the POA Board also developed a task force on "Standing Committees" to review

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committees and to make recommendations to the Board¹. The task force was comprised of Bruce Weetman, Joe Pokorny, and George Mahowald (later replaced by Paul Pool). It was also a time when the POA Board began to move away from administrative issues and move toward policy issues.² On February 2nd, 2000, the task force on Standing Committees made several recommendations to the POA Board of Directors that included eliminating the Audit and the Health and Medical Committees. They also recommended the need for a new “Public Affairs” committee and stated:

“We need a better grasp of public sector events that can impact HSV at the federal, state, county, and municipal levels. In the process we need to build coalitions with public-sector officials and private citizens who are involved in public-sector activities or whose prior work provides contacts and access to public officials. We may need a political action committee to make financial contributions to key office holders... to gain Village access to decision making early in the process and not when the legislative bill is receiving its third reading before being voted into law.”

The board accepted the report and its recommendation at its March 15, 2000 meeting. On April 5, 2000 the Board announced the appointment of the first three members of the new 7 member Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC)—Bob Venuti, Herb Perrin and Sam Padfield. An initial meeting of the future GAC was held June 15, 2000 without a quorum of board appointed members. Attending this initial meeting were: Herb Perrin, John Hollansworth, Bob Shoemaker, Bob Venuti, Tom Arwood, Tim Hutson, Sam Padfield, and George Mahowald. Since there were only three members appointed by the board, Tom Arwood (Liaison to the GAC from the Board) presided over the meeting and Bob Venuti was the secretary. It was recommended that a charter be drafted for the new committee, and General Manager, Dave Johnson volunteered to write a draft. The POA Board of Directors officially ratified the Charter for the new Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) on June 13, 2000. The year was filled with general discussions about the role and future projects of the committee. Originally chartered as a seven (7) member committee with members appointed by the POA Board of Directors to two year terms, the committee met bi-monthly at the Balboa Club at 7:30 a.m. Of particular significance the GAC reported directly to the POA Board of Directors. The initial committee was completed with the appointment of John Meehan as its seventh member on September 5th of 2000. The members of the first GAC were: Herb Perrin (President), John Hollansworth (Vice President), Bob Venuti (Secretary), Janice Morrison, Tim Hutson, Sam Padfield, and John Meehan.⁴ During the first year the GAC’s focus was on establishing its goals and objectives. The POA Board tasked the GAC with four specific areas: (1) Taxes, (2) Promotion of Retirement Areas, (3) Roads and (4) Electric Deregulation.⁵ In addition, there was a great deal of discussion on how best to interact with the local officials and key members of the surrounding communities. Early records indicate that the two Republican elected

¹ Board members Bob Smith, Pres., Bruce Weetman, V.P. Alice English, Mary Fain Richie, Joe Pokonky, Roger Barker, and Dave Schores.

² Ted Andrews, Fred Mills Jr., and Bob Reik, *The History of Hot Springs Village*, 2000.

³ POA Board Meeting Minutes, January 13, 2000.

⁴ POA Board Minutes, September 5, 2000.

⁵ POA Board Minutes, August 1, 2000.

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officials from HSV were instrumental in these discussions—State Representative, Roger Smith and Saline County Justice of the Peace, Pat Rhodes. Both were in regular attendance at the GAC meetings and their input was sought by the members. The purpose of the committee was clearly defined in its Charter: “*To advise and assist the POA Board in enhancing Village relationships with area, local, state, and federal government agencies and elected officials.*”⁶ From its inception the committee has had a much closer association with Saline County than Garland County. There are several possible explanations: First, the county was more aligned politically to the majority of residents in HSV, i.e., there were more Republican officials at the time. Second, there was an elected official from the Village on the Saline County Quorum Court. Third, the political structure of the county was easier to access than Garland County. Fourth, many members of the GAC were residents of Saline County. Fifth, the nature of the two counties was significantly different in terms of political orientation. Sixth, Garland County had a long history of tourism and the Village was perceived to be a threat to its well-entrenched economic base, and seventh, Saline County had an outgoing Republican County Judge (Lanny Fite). Regardless of the reasons, the GAC has and continues to have a closer relationship to Saline County than Garland County. This is demonstrated by the seven Saline County Quorum Court meetings held within the Village. The first was held on April 16, 2002. There have been no Garland County Quorum Court meetings in the Village.⁷

In 2001 the GAC continued to define its goals and objectives and sought the advice from many including Thedford Collins, the Manager for Governmental Affairs at Weyerhaeuser. Mr. Collins gave the committee excellent advice. Noting that all politics was local, he provided the committee with these seven points:

“(1) HSV should build relationships on a statewide basis by building relationships with others who can be helpful through their political contacts. (2) Identify the most important legislative committees related to core priorities. Get to know the members and work with Democrats and Republicans everywhere—no favorites. (3) Prepare a ‘cheat sheet’ to outline priorities that you want to make and pass it out. Keep the number small—only high priority items, and mention these items every time one meets an official, or department staff member. (4) Make use of the SW Bell directory for it has photos of all legislators and department heads and committees and get to know them. (5) Do not forget the office staff—they can be your best friends. Visit and get acquainted—write thank you notes for any favors, arrangements etc. (6) HSV needs to get more people to the highway transportation dinner and wear a name badge that identifies you with the village. (7) The Arkansas Congressional Group goes to Washington, D.C. to meet congressman and their staffs. Make an effort to join this group.”

During this period Saline County Clerk, Doug Kidd advised POA board member, Richard Schardt, “that many in Benton believe Villagers are ‘Snootie.’”⁹ This early perception has lingered

⁶ Governmental Affairs Committee Charter 2000.

⁷ See Appendix A.

⁸ Governmental Affairs Committee Minutes, July 12, 2001.

⁹ Governmental Affairs Committee Minutes, September 11, 2002.

and continues to pose one of the most difficult challenges the Village confronts. During the year the issue of water became critical to the Village—specifically the Village’s use of the Middle Fork of the Saline River. Judge Fite was asked about the water issue and how HSV could develop a better positive approach to the perceived problem. A successful tour of the Village and dinner with Saline County officials occurred in October followed by a golf outing a few days later. In contrast the role of the GAC in Garland County had yet to be determined.¹⁰ The water issue also altered the structure of the GAC, one that continued through the years. Due to the unique and scientific nature of the issue, the GAC heard from Al Behm who was a specialist in water. The committee began its long tradition of having ex-officio members who brought specific areas of expertise to inform and advise the committee. One of the unique aspects of the GAC would become the inclusion of ex-officio members. While they have no a formal vote, their interaction with the committee was the same as a member’s. Throughout this period the members met with public officials, hosted meetings with the state highway commissioner, Saline County officials, director of Parks and Tourism, officials from Bryant, revised its Charter to expand membership from 7 to 9, and reduced the meetings to monthly from bi-monthly. Amidst these activities the line between advocacy and partisanship was often blurred. The records indicate that the Republican elected officials regularly attended GAC meetings in this period and the lone Democrat was State Senator, Terry Smith. Moreover, it was proposed by Pat Rhodes that Saline County hold its Lincoln Day Dinner in the Village at the DeSoto Club.¹¹ Dave Johnson reminded him that the POA could not sponsor a partisan event. The GAC continued to struggle with this issue for several years, yet continued to build on the solid foundation established in its formative years. By the end of the period it had developed a legislative platform that included: Retirement/Relocation, Water, Highway Improvements, Disaster Assistance, and Senior Issues.¹²

Stabilization Period (2004-2010)

Expanding upon the foundation of the preceding years, the committee moved into a period of stabilization in terms of its interactions with elected and public officials, development of consistent operational standards, and methods of addressing new issues. It was also a period that saw the committee expand for the third time from nine to eleven members, adding additional ex-officio members, and changing the location of its meetings from the Balboa Club to the 19th Hole of the Desoto Club, and then to the Coronado Center. One of the principal features of this period was a balance between the Board’s objectives and the GAC. This was significant for two reasons: (1) one-third of those who served on the GAC during this nine year period ran for election to the Board. There were six members from the GAC who sought seats on the board (Paul Day, Teri Jackson, Tom Bryant, Jim Owens, Roger Pruitt and Larry Frazer) and all but Pruitt and Frazer were successful. (2) There were three former Board members who were appointed to the GAC (Tom Arwood, Keith Brown, Dick Breckon), and a fourth, Bob Shoemaker, became an ex-officio member. This dynamic proved to be instrumental in stabilizing the internal workings of the GAC as well as creating greater coordination between the Board and the committee.

¹⁰ Governmental Affairs Committee Minutes, October 2, 2001.

¹¹ Governmental Affairs Committee Minutes, February 5, 2002.

¹² Governmental Affairs Committee Minutes, December 3, 2002.

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The period expanded and refined the GAC's relations with elected and public officials in a number of significant ways. (1) It began the tradition of hosting a legislative luncheon at the Capitol at the start of each legislative session. (2) It augmented its contacts with surrounding local governments, chambers of commerce's, and economic development organizations. This was particularly evident first with the Saline County Economic Development Commission and later with Garland County's. (3) The GAC established the tradition of holding two candidate forums in the Village based on county boundaries prior to the general elections. This provided Village voters an opportunity to meet and ask questions of those seeking office. Forums were also held for contested school board elections. (4) It developed political jurisdictional maps, a much needed tool for a community that was represented by two counties, two school districts, multiple state representative districts, two state senate districts, and a variety of special districts. (5) The first "White Papers" were developed in 2004 that specified specific legislative areas endorsed by the Board. These were broken down into federal, state and county jurisdictions.¹³ (6) There was an increased presence and role in the two area MPOs which was particularly critical for the maintenance and development of roads. The Metro Plan for Central Arkansas held its October, 2004 meeting in HSV.¹⁴ (7) The issue of retirement/relocation which has been a central theme since HSV was founded in 1970, gained a new and more sophisticated advocacy under the title "Best Kept Secret" which was a slide presentation developed by Paul Day. For the first time the idea of retirement/relocation was presented as an economic factor of significant importance for both the state and surrounding areas. In addition to building upon earlier topics, there were a host of new areas that the GAC was central in developing and supporting during the period as well. Some of the more salient were: (1) The GAC initiated and guided two economic impact studies (2005 and 2010). These became crucial in the interactions with other agencies in demonstrating the impact of the Village on the economies of the state and local areas. The studies conducted by the University of Arkansas provided empirical evidence of the role and scope of HSV's economic contribution. They have been a key piece of the narrative that has been provided to residents and outside parties through the years. (2) During this period the issue of water continued to occupy a central role, particularly that of the Middle Fork, because of the contention among those living downstream. The GAC supported and aided the efforts of the formation of the Alliance of an Improved Middle Fork (AIM) that was established with ex officio member, Al Behm, the initiator of the project.¹⁵ This effort had both short and long term affects. In the short term it stopped potential litigation, and its long term ramification was the building of essential bridges with our neighbors. (3) The period saw the creation of the Arkansas Coalition of Planned Communities (ACPC) with HSV taking the leadership role in the coalition. The purpose was to address mutual problems and provide a unified front to the state legislature on issues of common concern. (4) This was a very active period in seeking changes to FEMA to include "unincorporated areas" in the disaster relief. There were many meetings with the state, county and congressional delegations on the issue. (5) The GAC became active in seeking General Improvement Funds (GIF) from the state representatives. These were monies available to the representatives that could be used to improve their district. (6) A focus on medical services was again brought to the front during this

¹³ Governmental Affairs Committee Minutes, July 9, 2004.

¹⁴ Governmental Affairs Committee Minutes, October 8, 2004.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* The first meeting was held at Crows Fire Station with 75 people in attendance.

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period. The first luncheon with a hospital director occurred with National Park's, Jason Spring.¹⁶ This was followed by a luncheon with the director of St. Joseph's hospital. While medical services had a long and turbulent history in HSV, the new focus was to provide expanded coverage for the residents of the Village. (7) The visibility of the GAC was increased by being placed on the HSVPOA web site in 2007.¹⁷ (8) Through the efforts of the GAC and Saline County, an early voting location for HSV residents was established. Garland County had provided this to its residents many years earlier.

The period was also noted for some structural changes within the committee as well. As noted above with the revised Charter, the membership was expanded, ex-officio members were appointed, and Linda Mayhood was designated as the administration's representative replacing General Manager, Dave Johnson. The role that she performed for the committee cannot be understated. She not only was the link to the administration, she maintained the minutes, was asked to do a number of tasks from coordinating visits, overseeing arrangements at the Capitol, and filling tables at events.

The Policy Period (2011-2017)

A key factor of this period was the Village's expanded role as a result of Cooper relinquishing the enforcement of the declaration, covenants, and Architectural Control Committee (ACC) to the Village. The demands on the Village and its leaders were increased to unprecedented levels, for the Village now had both the responsibility and license to more indelibly define itself. One of the by-products of this new role was the significance for the Village participation.

The "Policy Period" demonstrates the continual evolution of the GAC as it moved toward expanding its role by developing and providing greater detailed and documented information and participation on issues that had policy implications for the Village. Clearly previous committees had developed policy information, but the focus of the committee was transformed significantly from 2011 onward. This was possible because previous committees had provided the foundation by establishing good working relations with various entities from elected officials to private individuals and agencies. Furthermore the Village had grown in population and its economic and social impact on the surrounding areas was apparent. However, perhaps the most significant factor was the internal operations that came in the change in the method of operation that provided the new emphasis. Beginning in 2011 the members of the GAC were required to submit their written reports to the committee, POA Board, top administrators, media, and interested parties prior to the meetings. No longer were meetings centered around oral reports. They became significantly more structured, informative, and freed the committee to pursue specific topics in greater depth that allowed questions to become more precise and informative. In addition, written reports provided documentation of materials, events and background information essential to establishing the historical record. It was also during this period that the meetings moved to its fourth and current location, the Ouachita Room at the Ponce Center. The GAC continued to be a source of

¹⁶ Governmental Affairs Committee Minutes, February 8, 2008.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

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POA Board candidates with two of the fifteen members elected, Keith Keck, Mary Neilson, and a third, Lu Otto narrowly losing his bid.

The GAC continued to build on the work of previous committees. White Papers were re-evaluated and adjusted each year, candidate forums preceded each general election, elected officials met with the committee to inform and update legislative issues, and there was a general expansion of relationships with city, county and state governments. In addition fundamental issues continued to be addressed; such as, highways, water, retirement/relocation, water, economic impact and FEMA. New issues would also become the focus. Superintendents of Fountain Lake and Jessieville school districts were added as ex-officio members of the GAC. Issues like fluoridation, voting sites for early voting, energy, broadband, population and demographics, charter review, and the development of a GAC's own web page. Older issues were addressed with a new focus due to the changing membership of the committee and changing population in the Village. However, the GAC had a distinct advantage in that there were members or ex officio members who provided valuable institutional memory in addressing them. Furthermore, the older issues had a long history with the GAC and had been worked on by many committees over many years. Three examples of this are Retirement/Relocation, the MLK by-pass, and the economic impact study. From its original charge the issue of retirement/relocation has been at the center of the GAC activity. Over the years through the efforts of the GAC, it has become a major component in all legislative initiatives. Every governor has been provided information on the issue, as well as a host of legislators and constitutional officers. The latest was a statewide meeting with the Governor, state representatives and state senators and other interested parties from around the state. The MLK by-pass (extension) was initially part of the MLK funding in the early 2000's. It was an issue that was important to the Village as well as Garland County. The initial funds that were set aside for the project were re-appropriated to the MLK exchange. The issue, however, never left the GAC's "White Papers". The Village had a significant role in the "Pave It Forward" election for funding of this project.¹⁸ The Economic Impact Study of 2016, the seventh in the series, was significantly different from previous studies. Increased emphasis was placed on the complementary economic and social impacts on the region than in previous versions, and it was designed to be web based and open to multiple platforms.¹⁹

However, new areas propelled the "Policy Period." Four major areas drove much of the work of the GAC during this time. These policy areas were structured by sub-committees that often included non-committee member expertise. Among these were Charter review, demographics, internet, energy, web-page, and senior services.

Charter revision was the product of the Board's mandate for all committees to re-examine their charters. The GAC chair, Jim Zahnd, appointed a seven member Role and Scope Sub-Committee to perform this function. The committee was comprised of three GAC members, two past POA Board members, a current Board member and a resident.²⁰ After deliberations the committee

¹⁸ Governmental Affairs Committee Minutes of August 5, 2016 contain detailed analysis of the election.

¹⁹ These studies can be found at hsvgac.com.

²⁰ Role and Scope Sub-Committee members were: Jerry Yeric, (GAC & chair), Jim Owens, (POA Board), Jim Linam and Tom Arwood, (Former Board Members), Jim Harlow and Katherine Winslow (GAC), and Dottie Burke (Resident).

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reported back to the full GAC suggesting changes to the Charter. This was the most comprehensive review of the Charter to date. Several additions were made and approved by the Board. This is the current Charter.²¹

When one examines this period, the significance for the work on HSV demographics and population is used in nearly every aspect of the committee's work. Lu Otto was appointed to the GAC in 2013 and he came to the committee with a professional background in the area. He immediately formed a demographics sub-committee and began looking at the Village's composition using state and national data.²² The committee's first report, May 3, 2013, presented the outline of how it was going to proceed and what types of data were being sought. In order to better understand the population figures, several meetings with the Arkansas State Data Center were held. The population aspect yielded two specific results: (1) The GAC population formula, a more accurate measure for population estimates of the Village was proposed and adopted by the Board.²³ (2) A clarification of the national estimates of the population was provided by the U.S. Census in their HSV Census Designated Place (CDP). Demographic data were collected and analyzed in a variety of ways to determine the most precise and accurate description of the demographic characteristics of those living in HSV. Nearly every aspect of the GAC has some component of this sub-committee's work. The one common theme in GAC work is that it establishes factual bases upon which the Board and Village administration can make decisions.

A sub-committee on Utilities was formed to focus on the electrical services provided to the Village, and specifically on Entergy. Again it too was composed of diverse members but also had a strong professional representation. Its chair, Gerald Allen, was a professional engineer who had worked in the area of utilities, as did Bill Linam.²⁴ The sub-committee organized a public forum on utilities with John Bethel, the Executive Director of the Arkansas Public Service Commission. During this time Entergy was requesting an increase in rates from the Commission. The committee's work led to the chair of the POA Board of Directors, Harv Sheldon, testifying before the Commission on behalf of HSV on January 19, 2016, along with Michael Dollar, HSV Chamber of Commerce and Bob Herbert, a local businessman. The presentation did not go unnoticed by the Commission, Entergy or others appearing before the Commission. The *Democrat-Gazette* ran a front page story on the presentation.²⁵ Stories also appeared in the *Sentinel Record*. In the history of HSV this presentation will be an important factor in changing the perception of HSV.

The sub-committee on the Internet also was established.²⁶ There are areas of the Village that have no Internet and others with sub-standard service. In an era of increased reliance on the Internet, it is imperative that HSV is well served. Again, the GAC drew upon residents who had knowledge and expertise in this area to assist in the project.²⁷ One of the first objectives of the sub-committee

²¹ hsvgac.com.

²² Members: Lu Otto, Mary Neilson, Earl Babbie, and Sharon Prislipski.

²³ POA Board Minutes, August 6th, 2014. The formula is the number of water meters times 1.6.

²⁴ Members: Gerald Allen, Chair, Bill Linam, Frank Leeming and Clara Nicolosi.

²⁵ David Smith "Electricity Fickle" *Democrat-Gazette*, February 14, 2016.

²⁶ Members of the Internet Sub-Committee were: Gerald Allen, Michael Dollar, Jerry Yeric, Frank Leeming, Dennis Simpson, Robert Tillotson and Hayden Fusilier.

²⁷ Members of the Internet sub-committee were: Gerald Allen, (GAC) Dennis Simpson, Robert Tillotson, Hayden Fusilier, (Residents), Michael Dollar, and Clara Nicolosi.

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was to ascertain the scope of the problem and the needs. To do this the committee organized a public forum and the information gathered aided the committee on the problems and needs of HSV. In addition, the committee opened direct communications with the existing providers (AT&T and Suddenlink). Some progress has been made, but a comprehensive solution is still being sought. The GAC's newest members have both an interest and understanding of the problem. Pam Avila and Greg Jones both are involved with this issue. Greg has a very strong technical background and currently heads the effort to address this issue.

The GAC has returned to an active role in the area of health services. As noted above this issue has been a focus of the Village's priorities in the past, then faded and then renewed. The renewed emphasis was initiated by Lesley Nalley's (CFO) appointment to the Governor's Advisor Council on Aging. A sub-committee was formed chaired by Cindy Calhoun of the GAC that ultimately provided the foundation for the Senior Services Symposium.²⁸ The committee's initial focus was on services available to seniors (health, financial, legal, etc.). The focus has narrowed to health services under the direction of Richard Johnson of the GAC whose background, as a hospital administrator, aids in directing the attention to the health area. In addition, demographic data from the Village, state and the nation have been used in preparing a presentation of the health care needs of the residents and current availability of services.

Finally, during this period the GAC became the first committee to develop its own web page; hsvgac.com. Several factors drove the decision to develop this platform. First, from the initial meetings with Wayne Miller, the author of the Economic Impact Study, it was determined that his final product would be available in a modular web format in addition to the traditional hard copies. Second, the GAC's involvement in past projects and research in new issues, and the reporting in greater specificity of the information should be easily available. Finally, it provided an easy way to archive data and information. Michael Dollar and Clara Nicolosi led this project and the result was a user friendly web page housing White Papers, studies, reports, and the Charter. This marked a new dimension for the GAC and those interested in HSV governance. It also illustrates the evolution of the GAC not only in content, but also in communicating with the interested parties.

Conclusion

The evolution of the GAC over the years reflects the growth of HSV and its place within the state and surrounding communities. It also demonstrates a consistent pattern of issues as well as adapting to new ones as they arise. From its origins in 2000, it has addressed a variety of issues; however, it maintained its core: retirement/relocation, highways, water, and health issues, and the interaction with local elected and public officials. These are all continuous issues and require long periods of time to see the desired results. We have seen the GAC expand from 7 to 9 to 11 members, use a host of ex-officio members to address specific areas of interest, and in recent years to seek members within the community with special skills and interest to serve on a variety of sub-committees reflecting their interest. The GAC has set aside partisan politics for a non-partisan approach. The GAC demonstrates leadership in new technologies (such as hsvgac.com) and continues to address current issues as well as future needs. The stability of membership of the

²⁸ Committee members were: Cindy Calhoun, John Weidert (POA Board), Lesley Nalley (CFO), Missy Materson (resident), Valerie Mattler, Bobbie Bateman, Fern Hancock, and Richard Johnson.

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GAC has aided its smooth transition. In addition, several of its nine chairs have served multiple terms, members have gone on to be elected to the Board and others have moved from the Board to become members. Therefore, while increasing the committee's size from 7 to 9 to 11 members, the addition of ex-officio members and the use of individuals with particular interests and expertise, the committee's hallmark has been one of outreach to the community for more inclusiveness. Committees perform many valuable roles for organizations; they allow for more detailed and closer examination of key issues. Through the years the GAC has been tasked by the Board with this role and its record reflects it has carried out this function exceptionally well.

APPENDIX A

Saline County Quorum Court Meetings in HSV

April 16, 2002

April 3, 2003

July 15, 2005

July 18, 2006

July 8, 2008

May 21, 2013

May 18, 2017

APPENDIX B

GAC Committee Members

		Year Appointed
Herb	Perrin	2000
John	Hollansworth	2000
Bob	Venuti	2000
Sam	Padfield	2000
Janice	Morrison	2000
Tim	Huton	2000
John	Meehan	2000
Rick	Parameter	2001
Dick	Radideau	2002
Ron	Petti	2003
George	Mahowald	2003

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Rita	Smith	2003
Jerry	Yeric	2003
Paul	Day	2004
Terri	Jackson	2004
Guy	Dowell	2005
Roger	Pruitt	2005
Art	Saalfield	2006
Dick	Rabideau	2006
Tom	Bryant	2006
Tom	Arwood	2006
Keith	Brown	2007
Jim	Zahnd	2007
Carla	Berroyer	2008
Rosemary	Rogers	2008
Larry	Frazer	2008
James	Franks	2008
Jim	Owens	2008
Fred	Kalsbeek	2008
John	Gallagher	2010
Dick	Breckon	2010
Paul	Pool	2010
Lee	Soloman	2010
Katherine	Winslow	2012
Dick	Schmidt	2012
Gerald	Allen	2012
Jim	Harlow	2012
Keith	Keck	2012
Mary	Neilson	2013
Lu	Otto	2013
Joan	Sible	2013
Cindy	Calhoun	2014
Michael	Dollar	2014
Curt	Malone	2014
Carla	Nicolosi	2015
David	Whitlow	2015
Richard	Johnson	2016
Bob	Herbert	2016
Pam	Avilia	2017
Greg	Jones	2017

Red indicates served as Chair