

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
9:00 AM Friday, October 4, 2019  
Jessieville Schools Board Room**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Committee Members Present**

Pamela Avila  
Mike Hood  
Cheri Nelson  
Bob Pettey  
David Whitlow  
Jim Zahnd

**Committee Members Absent**

Greg Jones  
David Childs  
Curt Malone  
Jerry Yeric

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

Bob Shoemaker

**Ex-Officio Board Members Absent**

Paul Day

**POA Liaisons**

Mike Medica, Board Liaison  
Leslie Nalley, POA CEO (absent)

**Other Board Members**

None

**Justices of the Peace**

Keith Keck, Saline County (absent)  
Larry Raney, Garland County (absent)

**School District Liaisons**

Melissa Speers, Jessieville SD  
Dr. Michael Murphy, FLSD

**HSV Area Chamber of Commerce Liaison**

Nathan Hunnicutt, Executive Director (absent)

**Press**

Lewis Delavan, Village Voice

**Others Present**

Diane Bielanski  
Carol Heckert  
Joan Schoonover  
Terry Bayes  
Rose Drake  
Jane Moore  
Suzie Reed  
Robyn Maxted

**OPENING OF MEETING**

**Call to Order:** Chair Pam Avila called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

**Notified Absences:** Greg Jones, David Childs, Keith Keck, Curt Malone, and Jerry Yeric.

**Agenda:** The Agenda was approved as submitted.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the September 6, 2019 meeting were approved.

**Introductions:** Chairi Pam Avila introduced several guests, many of whom were members of the Altrusa International Club of Hot Springs Village;

**SPECIAL PROGRAM**  
**GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS – JESSIEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

- Melissa G. Speers, Superintendent of Jessieville School District, and several other members of the Jessieville faculty and administration, including Toby Packard, Principal of Middle School and High School, Kendal Glomski, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Cameron Hall, High School Counselor, presented an overview of the School District, its curriculum and the various programs available to students.
- District Overview:
  - JSD is an important member of the HSV community as 55% of the District's 833 students (grades K-12) reside in the Village.
  - Seventy-five percent of the student body qualify for free and reduced cost meals and, as a result, every student is provided free breakfast and lunch every day.
  - Forty-five percent of the teachers hold advanced degrees and the average teacher salary is \$45,200.
  - In 2018, JSD had a graduation rate of 89.1% and a college-going rate of 38%.
  - Sixty-two percent of the student body earned college credit while in high school and 15% were enrolled in advanced placement classes.
- Special programs to prepare students, both academically and socially, to face college or career paths upon graduation:
  - In addition to traditional classrooms, advanced placement courses, and concurrent credit courses offered through National Park College, and numerous extra-curricular activities, the District provides College and Technical Education (CTE) courses in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, Business, TV Broadcasting and Family/Consumer Science.
  - In the Environmental and Spatial Technology (EAST) classes, students work with businesses and communities to identify real-world problems and then use state-of-the-art technology to search for solutions to those problems. Past EAST projects include mapping gullies in the Village and creating computer programs for small businesses.
- Career Exploration Opportunities

- All students take Career Development in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- JSD participates in National Park College Manufacturing Day, local career days, and regional industry fairs.
- Students can take advantage of job-shadowing, work-study programs and internship opportunities. JSD participates in the National Career Academy Coalition program.
- Campus Tour:
  - Following the presentation, Committee members and guests were given a tour of the JSD campus and several CTE (Career & Technical Education) classes.

### **REMINDERS & CALENDAR**

Next POA Board Meeting: 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 16, at the Ouachita Building.

Next GAC Meeting: 9:00 a.m., Friday, November 1. Tour of Fountain Lake High School classrooms (details to follow).

# COMMITTEE REPORTS – NOVEMBER 2019

## Tri-Lakes Metropolitan Planning Organization Report

Submitted by David Whitlow

10/26/19

The Tri-Lakes MPO Policy Board met on October 17, 2019 at the Hot Springs Transportation Center. The public was invited to this meeting. Mike Medica and David Whitlow represented Hot Springs Village. The main focus of the meeting was to present an update on the Martin Luther King Expressway interchanges study by ARDOT (Arkansas Department of Transportation). The study is continuing; a final draft will be presented when completed.

The MPO approved support of ARDOT's 2020 safety targets. The 2045 Master Transportation Plan Priority Projects will be presented for approval at the MPO's Policy Board meeting schedule in February 2020.

Of particular interest to Hot Springs Village was the report by ARDOT that bids will be let on November 16th for construction of the MLK Expressway extension to Highways 5 and 7. Utility work should begin in December. Widening of Highway 7 (Park Avenue) to Highway 5 to add three lanes with curb and gutter as well as intersection improvements at Highway 5 are scheduled in the spring of 2020. Safety improvement on selected areas of Highway 7 between Bryant Road and Highway 298 West are scheduled for early 2020.

## 2020 Census Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee

Submitted by Jim Zahnd

November, 2019

- Organizational meeting of the committee was held on October 17 with all members present.
- Jim Zahnd and Renee Haugen have each attended 2020 Complete Count training sessions conducted by regional 2020 Census Partnership Specialists.
- A public relations planning sub- group headed by Nancy Hendricks is developing a plan to promote the 2020 Census in Hot Springs Village and encourage all residents to complete their census forms.

- A second sub-group headed by Jim Zahnd continues to work with state and regional officials and agencies to assure the Census Designated Place for Hot Springs Village is correctly defined.
- Liaison has been established with the chairs of the Saline County (County Attorney Clay Ford) and Garland County (JP Esther Dixon) Complete Count Committees. Both have been invited to attend the HSV committee's meetings.

## Hot Springs

Submitted by Jerry Yeric

National Park College hosted a grand opening for its new Student Commons building.

Enjoined by the courts from criminalizing panhandling, the city on Tuesday announced the upcoming rollout of an anti-poverty program that puts panhandlers to work. The Hope Works initiative, which City Manager Bill Burrough told the Hot Springs Board of Directors the city and Jackson House expect to start by the end of the month, will offer the homeless and panhandlers minimum wage to pick up litter from roadways and public areas.

The upkeep of Arkansas Career Training Institute facilities, including electrical service and security, will continue until June 30, 2020, according to Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Commissioner Alan McClain.

The Hot Springs Advertising and Promotion Commission supported the Chamber of Commerce resolution on the old Army and Navy Hospital. The resolution contains six points:

- Arkansas Rehabilitation Services will be asked to immediately develop a comprehensive plan for the closing of the facility.
- Utilities and minimal heat will be maintained through June 30, 2020, to provide time to market the main building for repurposing.
- The Arkansas congressional delegation will be asked to develop a plan for adequate funding for security and maintenance by June 30, 2020.
- Upon the completion of Phase 1 environmental studies now underway, if warranted, the complex will be eligible for inclusion in the federal EPA Brownfields Program of contaminated properties and will apply for federally funded mitigation.
- Most of the 30 smaller buildings behind the main ACTI building will be demolished as soon as federal EPA funds are available.
- The state will immediately make the main complex building available for repurposing by an appropriate public agency for public health or educational programs.

## Garland—Jerry Yeric

Expectations that the casino gaming amendment voters passed last year would be a boon to city and county coffers have been borne out by tax receipts from July and August wagering at Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort.

The new tax structure prescribed by the amendment has significantly increased Hot Springs and Garland County's Oaklawn revenue since it took effect July 1. The city realized increases of 83% in July and 95% in August compared to last year, when its Oaklawn revenue was based on a 1.50% tax levied on net revenue from games of skill.

The Arkansas House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to expel state Rep. Mickey Gates, R-District 22, of Hot Springs and Hot Springs Village, ending a year-long stalemate in which Gates refused calls from Republicans and Democrats to step down over his failure to pay state income taxes. With an overwhelming vote of 88-4 Gates became only the third legislator to be expelled.

For only the third time in the state's history, the Arkansas House of Representative expelled one of its own members, Mickey Gates on an 88-4 vote. The last time a member was expelled from the House was in 1837, prior to the adoption of the state's current constitution in 1874.

The Governor has called for a special election. A special election for the District 22 House seat Mickey Gates was removed from earlier this month has been set for March 3, the same date as the 2020 preferential primaries and nonpartisan general election. Two elections for the vacant District 22 House seat will be held March 3, one (1) to fill the remainder of expelled lawmaker Mickey Gates' third term and (2) one for party nominations to run for the 2021-22 term next November. Republican electrician and businessman Richard McGrew has also announced. He was elected last year to the Garland County Quorum Court where he represents the Mountain Pine area. Republicans Jack Wells and Richard Midkiff have also indicated that they too intend to run. Don Pierce who was the first to announce is withdrawing from the District 22 race because of health reasons.

Gates' plans to run again but could face an obstacle: a law passed this year that prevents those who have been convicted or pleaded guilty or no contest to a felony from running for the Legislature.

Gates has argued that the law, which he voted for, is unconstitutional, and he has hinted at a lawsuit if he's prevented from running again.

County Judge Darryl Mahoney signed an amendment that requires the county to provide up to 10 inmates to assist with food preparation and cleaning of equipment during morning and evening shifts, stipulating that at no time are they under the supervision the current Trinity staff.

Five budgeted positions at the Garland County Juvenile Detention Center will be transferred to the adult jail as the sheriff's department prepares to open an additional housing unit to absorb overcrowding at the adult facility.

The Fountain Lake Fire Protection Association has filed a petition with the Garland County Quorum Court to become a fire district.

Garland County plans to direct 3% of the proceeds from the 0.5% countywide sales tax to the road fund in 2020, County Judge Darryl Mahoney told justices of the peace. Eighty percent of the proceeds go to the general fund and 20% to the solid waste fund. The new distribution formula Mahoney intends to affect through a county court order would reduce solid waste's share by 3%.

