

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (GAC)
Ouachita Events Bldg., Ponce de Leon Center
Friday, September 2, 2016, 8:00 AM

Highlights of the meeting are summarized below.

- CHI St. Vincent opened walk-in clinic (no appointments accepted) at West Gate that will operate six days per week; open Monday thru Friday, 7 a.m. – 6 a.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- HSV Discovery center in Hot Springs opened on September 1.
- Assessment increase effective January 1, 2017 by 0.8 percent resulting in \$65.50 and 37.80, respectively, for occupied lots and vacant lots.
- Mike Medica and Mike Dollar addressed the State Senate/House Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology on August 30.
- Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) planning progressing and some continuing education course could be offered as early as this fall.
- Senior Services Expo planning progressing – all familiar with program are encouraged to tell their friends and neighbors to attend.

Reminders and Calendar:

- **Next GAC Meeting, 8:00 a.m., Friday, October 7, Ouachita Events Bldg., Ponce de Leon Center**
- **Next HSVBOD meeting, 9:00, Wednesday , September 21**
- **Annual Arkansas Highway Commissioner Dinner, Tuesday, October 25, Oaklawn Track Kitchen**
- **Prayer Breakfast, 6:20 a.m., Tuesday, October 4, Hot Springs Convention Center**
- **HSV Senior Services Expo, October 13th, 2016, 8 am to 1 pm at the Coronado Center**

Committee Members

Chair Gerald Allen, Vice Chair Clara Nicolosi (absent), Cindy Calhoun, Jerry Yeric, Lu Otto, David Whitlow, Michael Dollar,
Jim Harlow, Curt Malone and Richard Johnson.

Ex-Officio Members

Paul Day, Benton Chamber and Judges Representative
John Lands, Schools (absent)
Bob Shoemaker, Local and State Officials

Justices of the Peace

Larry Griffin – Garland

Larry Raney – Garland

Jim Zahnd – Saline (absent)

POA Board Members

John Weidert
Bob Cunningham

Others Attending

Keith Brown
David Childs, Public Works Committee

Press

Lewis Delavan, *Village Voice*

John Weidert - **POA Board Report**

- Contract procedures modified to allow CEO to enter into contracts for budgeted work if amount does not exceed \$50k consistent with purchase approval authority.
- Budget for DeSoto Club modified to reflect a contracted operation; removing revenue and expenses but leaving \$150k for smallware purchases.
- CHI St. Vincent opened walk-in clinic (no appointments accepted) at West Gate that will operate six days per week; open Monday thru Friday, 7 a.m. – 6 a.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Discovery center in Hot Springs opened on September 1.
- Trails Committee modified to meet once per calendar quarter.
- Assessment increase effective January 1, 2017 by 0.8 percent resulting in \$65.50 and 37.80, respectively, for occupied lots and vacant lots.
- POA to acquire allocation of storage in Lake Ouachita adequate to yield two million gallons of water per day through the Mid Arkansas Water Alliance (MAWA) at a cost of approximately \$35k per year, subject to final approval of the Corps of Engineers of the MAWA allocation.

Gerald Allen – **Chair Report**

- Mike Medica, Clara Nicolisi, Mike Dollar, Richard Johnson and Gerald Allen attended the meeting of the State Senate/House Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology on August 30 at the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce. Mike Medica and Mike Dollar addressed the Committee describing the deficiencies in broadband access in HSV and presented suggested options for incentives to service providers for providing access in low population density areas, including parts of HSV.
- Other speakers included representatives of the Hot Springs Broadband Leadership Council, ATT and Resort Cable (Hot Springs).
- Sen. Sample emphasized HSV’s need for broadband access to support growth.

Benton Chamber of Commerce - Paul Day

- I attended Gov’t Affairs meeting for Benton Chamber on August 16. I presented the HSV Social and Economic Impact study to 18 community leaders and gave copies to those who requested them. The main speaker at this meeting with State Senator Alan Clark, who represents some of both Hot Springs and Benton. He said that his main focus in the upcoming legislative session was the following three items:
 - Managed care reform. He believes it is possible to save approximately \$90 million even with a nursing home exemption.
 - Education reform. He said only 31% of Arkansas students read proficiently based on recent tests and that must change.
 - Tax and regulation reform is needed which would help Arkansas increase economic growth and get more good jobs.
- I had lunch with Lamont Cornwell, Saline County Economic Development Director who announced that there would be a meeting on Wednesday, September 14, at the Benton Events Center to present the status of the proposed Career and Technology Education Center (CTE) for Saline County. The presentation will discuss the pathways that will be taught, unveil a picture of the proposed facility, and answer any questions regarding it. All interested parties are invited and lunch will be served.

- I had lunch with State Representative Lanny Fite on August 24. One of the many projects he is working to improve is Solid Waste Reform. He believes that lack of oversight and regulation will require several solid waste sites to close due to financial difficulties and inadequate controls. In addition, he believes that used tires are not being disposed of properly and that taxpayer

Broadband - Clara Nicolisi

- We have been busy over the last month in preparation for the Advance Communication & Information Technology State Committee meeting in Hot Springs, scheduled for August 30th.
- I met with Frank Lemming to gather as much information from the previous broadband work done (December 2014)
- Gerald Allen, Michael Dollar and I met last week to strategize a direction for the August 30th meeting. We recognized the need for updated information on our broadband services for current statistics.
- A roundtable was held on Wednesday, Aug 24th, at 3:00 pm. In attendance was Mike Medica, Gerald Allen, Clara Nicolosi, John Weidert, Richard Johnson, Michael Dollar, Billy Cockrill (Suddenlink General Manager, Russellville), Wayne Ford (Suddenlink Tech Ops, HSV), and Richard Gibson (Suddenlink Tech Ops Manager, Cabot). We had a great meeting exchange and an open discussion on system wide upgrades and improvements. The Suddenlink representatives gave us an update on changed since the previous coverage map (2014). Seven (7) miles of additional cable has been put into service in the Maria subdivision (east end).
 - Upcoming proposed projects from Suddenlink include additional services in seven areas (subdivisions). Once this work is approved and funded this will add service to 450 homes, and that number could double once the vacant lots are built on.
 - An interesting note to Suddenlink new service is the trenching work that has to be done. Our rocky (boulders in some areas) make the trenching cost escalate. Basic trenching costs are at \$10 per foot of trenching right now. This is without the rocks and boulders. That is where the trenching cost has surcharges and starts to skyrocket.
 - We had a very productive meeting with Suddenlink. We opened the door to better communications and hopefully a future with more of the Village covered with broadband service.
- I estimate the current availability of service from Suddenlink is approximately 6,000 homes, of which there are currently 5,000 subscribers. The ATT estimates are around 1700 user – for a Village total of 6,700 broadband subscribers.
- Interesting comparison of the 2014 broadband cost and speeds to present day:

December 2014			August 2016		
Broadband Internet Service			Broadband Internet Service		
	ATT U-Verse	Suddenlink		ATT U-Verse	Suddenlink
Speed (Mbps)	Cost Per Month		Speed (Mbps)	Cost Per Month	
3	\$30.00	\$37.00	6	\$30.00	
6	\$35.00		24	\$50.00	
12	\$40.00		45-50	\$60.00	\$39.00
15		\$52.00 ¹	75		\$49.00
Phone/TV Bundled			100		\$59.00
			150		\$79.00

¹ Bundle

Social & Economic Study 2016 - Lu Otto

- Hand delivery of copies of the University Impact Report to targeted recipients continues.
- The web remains our primary vehicle of distribution and the GAC website dashboard indicates that the Report received 318 hits this past week (214 for <hsv-impact.html> and 104 for <2016 – impact study.html>). An interesting and informative feature of the GAC site, compliments of Mike Dollar, is that the dashboard also lists referring sites. Thus, for example, we know that the VOICE was the referring site for 16 hits, and another 10 were referred by hsvpoa.org etc.
- The Village VOICE, Lewis Delavan, writer, recently completed a five-part weekly series of interview articles drawn from the University Impact Report.
- Verbal presentations on the report were given to two Village Clubs and organizations in July, FOCUS and Breakfast Lions. Presentations to Kiwanis and Rotary are scheduled in September. Others are under discussion.
- The Breakfast Lions presentation was covered in The Sentinel Record, Lorien Dahl, and writer.
- A few errors in the Impact report, primarily but not exclusively editorial, have been reported, and we encourage reporting of all errors back to us, whether large or small. Errors can be corrected “on the fly” in the web digital copy and later if additional print copies are made.
- Critiques of the present report and recommendations relating to future reports are also encouraged. These are being summarized and will be passed on to posterity for future consideration.

Keith Keck – **Metroplan**

- The MetroPlan Board's main topic was the waiver to the six-lane policy. The Board heard inputs from the MetroPlan Staff, Regional Planning Advisory Council, and citizens regarding the motion at hand. Most citizen comments were still opposed to the waiver. Both mayors of Little Rock and North Little Rock spoke strongly in support of the waiver. Board voted almost unanimously for the motion to waive the policy; only dissent was from Rock Region Metro.
- The Board conducted final interviews on two candidates for the Executive Director. Decision pending.

Jim Harlow – **Lifelong Learning Institute**

- Met with POABOD in August to discuss program.
- Phases of Development
 - Continuing Education – ongoing and have conformation of some programs; survey conducted by UALR in progress; two to three programs to be chosen shortly starting this fall and extending into next Spring.
 - Travel Segment – met with Road Scholar (formerly Elderhostel) and partnership is of interest by both parties.
 - Retiree Exploration Weekend. Development not started.
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Curt Malone – **Saline County**

- Discussed the Saline County Regional Water Authority potential for building a water treatment plant to treat water from Lake Ouachita for several communities including Hot Springs Village. Such institutional arrangement would likely result in cost savings for all users.

Cindy Calhoun – Senior Services Expo

HSV Senior Services Expo
Coronado Center (auditorium & rooms 1, 2, 3, 6)
OCTOBER 13, 2016
8 am to 1pm

8:00-9:30: Booths open
9:30-10:30: Keynote and opening speakers (booths quite during this time)
10:30-11:30: Open time for Booths
11:30-12:00: Free Box Lunch (Box Lunch sponsors: Good Sam and Mt. Carmel)
Lunchtime speaker: Stephanie Hefner-POA activities (booths quite)
12:00-1:00: Open time for Booths

Breakout Sessions:

12:00 pm – 12:20 pm “*What Elders Need to Know, including the Miller Trust*” by
Attorney Karen Baim Reagler

12:20 pm – 12:40 pm “*Getting Help in times of Trouble*” by Missy Masterson,
Area Agency on Aging

12:40 pm – 1:00 pm “*Hope for the Future*” by Macy Braswell, Hospice and Palliative
Care Association of Arkansas

- The Expo flyer design is final (See attached) and will be distributed to:
 - Golf shops
 - Magellan Deli
 - Visitors Center
 - Chamber
 - Churches
 - Fitness Center
 - E-mail Blast
 - Tennis Center
 - Good Sam and Mt Carmel to distribute to their residents
- A poster of the flyer will be made and posted in:
 - Fitness Center
 - Coronado Center
 - The Woodlands
- Publicity Campaign Plan (Gerald Allen):
 - 7 Articles and press releases in the Village Voice and the Sentinel-Record
 - Letters to the Editor
 - Community Calendar
 - Village Blog
 - E-Blast (Fern Hancock)
 - Village Digest
 - Facebook
 - Expo Flyer and article on GAC Website
 - Vendors encouraged to post flyer on their Website
 - KVRE 92.9 Take 5 and 10 30 second spots (John Weidert)
- To date we have 25 confirmed exhibitors
- Expo complimentary box lunch and transportation pre-registration has begun



OCT. 13, 2016

SENIOR SERVICES EXPO



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2016
8AM-1PM @ CORONADO CENTER



Hosted by the Governmental Affairs Committee, the Senior Services Expo will showcase a great line-up of approximately 24 organizations such as Veteran's Services, SHIIP/Medicaid/Medicare, Social Security, Alzheimer's Arkansas, The Caring Place, Area Agency on Aging, Oaklawn Center on Aging and more.

There will also be three informative breakout sessions: **"What Elders Need to know, including the Miller Trust"** by Karen Baim Reagler, LL.M.-Estate Planning and Elder Law; **"Hope for the Future"** by Hospice and Palliative Care Association of Arkansas – Macy Braswell, HPCAA Board Member; and **"Getting Help in Times of Trouble"** by Area Agency on Aging - Missy Masterson-Hale, RN.

**TO PRE-REGISTER FOR A FREE BOX LUNCH OR TRANSPORTATION TO THE EXPO,
CALL VALERIE METTLER AT 501-922-4231 OR EMAIL VMETTLER@HSVPOA.ORG**

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 30TH

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