

MINUTES OF MEETING
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (GAC)
Ouachita Events Building, Ponce de Leon Center, 1101 Desoto Blvd.
Friday, January 4, 2019, 8:00 AM

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present

Pamela Avila
Michael Dollar
Greg Jones
Jerry Yeric
David Whitlow
Curt Malone

Committee Members Absent

Bob Hebert

Ex-Officio Members Present

Mike Medica
Bob Shoemaker

Ex-Officio Members Absent

None

POA Liaisons

Tom Weiss – Board Chair
Lesley Nalley – POA CEO

Other POA Board Members

Bob Cunningham

Justices of the Peace

Keith Keck, Saline County
Larry Raney, Garland County

School District Liaisons

Melissa Speers, Jessieville (absent)
Dr. Michael Murphy

Press

Lewis Delavan, Village Voice

Others Present

Maxine Klein – HSV Resident
David Childs – HSV Resident

OPENING OF MEETING

Call to Order: Chair Michael Dollar called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

Introductions: Guests – Maxine Klein, HSV Resident;

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted.

Minutes: The minutes of the December 7, 2018 meeting were approved.

Comments: Chamber is looking for new Executive Director.

POA REPORTS

Governance Report –Tom Weiss

- Board Meeting in two weeks

Lesley Nalley

- Lunch meeting with Judges from both counties to take place Jan 23. Michael Dollar and Pam Avila will represent the GAC
- Interviews for new CMEO position continue

GAC SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Broadband – Greg Jones

No additional report

Hot Springs and Garland County – Jerry Yeric

No additional report beyond written submitted report

Tri-Lakes – David Whitlow

Next Meeting is Feb. 2

J.P. COMMENTS

J.P. Report Garland County

Still challenges with new jail – finding staff

J.P. Report Saline County –

Court provided HSV AWL with additional funds for spay/neuter efforts

Budget was passed

SCHOOLS

Superintendent of Schools/Fountain Lake

Planning for 2019. Trying to silo meetings on two days a week. Looking at ways to bring schools to higher level of excellence – phased in over years. Looking for ways to identify where Villagers get their information so that school district can reach out for input and feedback on future goals/plans.

SPECIAL GUESTS

Gary James – CEO/President, Benton Chamber of Commerce

Brent Jones – Chair, GAC Benton Chamber
Tom Farmer – new Mayor of Benton
Lamont Cornwell – Exec. Director, Saline County Economic Development Corporation
Brad Jordan - Community and Economic Development Director for Benton
Tina – Benton Marketing

Introductions all around the room.

Discussion on growing/strengthening relationship between Benton and HSV

Comments on support of Village voters for bond for Saline County CTE Center

Find ways we can support each other

REMINDERS AND CALENDAR

The next GAC meeting will be Friday, February 1, 2019, at 8:00 AM, Ouachita Events Building, Ponce de Leon Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:20am.