

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (GAC)**  
Ouachita Events Building, Ponce de Leon Center, 1101 Desoto Blvd.  
**Friday, March 1, 2019, 8:00 AM**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Committee Members Present**

Pamela Avila  
Greg Jones  
Keith Keck  
Curt Malone  
David Whitlow  
Jerry Yeric

**Committee Members Absent**

Michael Dollar

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

Bob Shoemaker

**POA Liaisons**

Robert Cunningham

**Other POA Board Members**

Mike Medica, Director  
Robert Turpin, Interim Director

**Justices of the Peace**

Larry Raney, Garland County  
Keith Keck, Saline County

**School District Liaisons**

Dr. Michael Murphy, Fountain Lake

**Press**

Lewis Delavan, Village Voice

**Others Present**

Brent Jones, Benton Chamber of Commerce  
Sarah McLean, Benton Chamber  
Lu Otto, Former GAC Member  
Jim Zahnd, Former GAC Member

**OPENING OF MEETING**

**Call to Order:** Vice-Chair Pamela Avila called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

**Introductions:** Guests were introduced.

**Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda was made by Greg Jones, seconded by Curt Malone. Motion passed.

**Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes of the February 1, 2019 meeting was made by Greg Jones, seconded by Curt Malone. Motion approved.

## **VICE-CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Pam Avila asked that committee members forego oral reports so that there could be more time for discussing the setting of committee goals. She opened the floor for other comments from those present.

## **SPECIAL REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Brent Jones gave a brief report on the activities at the last Governmental Affairs Committee of the Benton Chamber of Commerce.

Greg Jones was complimented by Bob Shoemaker on the award that Jones had received at the annual Hot Springs Village Chamber dinner.

Lu Otto, former GAC member, reported on Hot Spring Village census designation issues. He expressed his concerns regarding the 2020 Census and boundaries of Hot Springs Village for that census. The CDC (Census Designated Area) used in the 2010 Census was incorrect, resulting in a lower count by 965 persons. This was primarily in the Magellan and Isabella subdivisions. A letter to the Arkansas State Data Center is necessary to insure that boundaries for the 2020 count are consistent with the true Village boundaries.

Motion was made by Greg Jones to continue to pursue the issuance of such a letter from the Hot Springs Village Property Owners Association, as well as Saline and Garland Counties to Dr. Pam Willrodt, Director, Arkansas State Data Center, verifying HSV's true boundaries for the 2020 count. Motion was seconded by Jerry Yeric. Motion passed.

## **J.P. COMMENTS**

### **JP Report Saline County – Keith Keck**

- Governor Hutchinson signed a bill to work toward improving broad band coverage to unserved areas of the state.
- Clara Nicolosi and Jason Temple were approved to represent Saline County on committees of Metro-Plan.
- The intersection of Highway 5 and Desoto Boulevard is to be re-studied by ARDOT.

## **GAC COMMITTEE WRITTEN REPORTS**

The following reports were submitted and circulated prior to the meeting:

- 1) Tri-Lakes MPO – David Whitlow
- 2) Hot Springs and Garland County – Jerry Yeric.

These reports may be found on the GAC website.

## **REPORT ON GAC PLANNING MEETING**

Pam Avila reported on the special planning meeting held to discuss committee issues and directions that need to be clarified in order to set new GAC goals. Jerry Yeric noted that the committee's charter was revised in 2015.

Avila suggested the GAC add new issues of interest to the discussion, such as broadband development, and that the committee should continue with issues of health care, roads and schools. GAC should also monitor factors outside of the Village in order to help HSV staff and board to continue to be informed.

Suggestions made by those in attendance at the planning meeting included:

1. Working more closely with Kevin Sexton, POA Director of Tourism and Community Affairs,
2. Working more closely with local entities such as Entergy, First Electric and hospitals,
3. Working with other groups such as the Garland County Economic Development Committee and local chambers of commerce,
4. Seeking individuals to serve on state and local committees,
5. Increase communication through local media about GAC's accomplishments, and
6. Monitoring redistricting issues.

## **SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMENTS**

Fountain Lake – Dr. Michael Murphy

- Meetings have been held with ARDOT concerning easements on Highway 7 near the new proposed construction.
- Murphy is working with Donna Aylward to create groups to work on communication strategies.
- The district has hired a new football coach.

## **REMINDERS AND CALENDAR**

The next POA Board Meeting is Wednesday, April 17th, 9:00 AM, Ouachita Events Building, Ponce de Leon Center.

The next GAC meeting will be Friday, April 5th, 2018, at 8:00 AM, Ouachita Events Building, Ponce de Leon Center.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 am.