

MINUTES OF MEETING
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (GAC)
Ouachita Events Building, Ponce de Leon Center, 1101 Desoto Blvd.
Friday, June 7, 2019, 9:00 AM

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present

Pamela Avila
Greg Jones
Jerry Yeric
David Whitlow
Curt Malone
Jim Zahnd

Committee Members Absent

Ex-Officio Members Present

Bob Shoemaker

Ex-Officio Members Absent

None

POA Liaisons

Mike Medica – Board Liaison
Lesley Nalley – POA CEO

Other POA Board Members

None

Justices of the Peace

Keith Keck, Saline County
Larry Raney, Garland County

School District Liaisons

Melissa Speers, Jessieville (absent)
Dr. Michael Murphy, FLSD

HSV Chamber of Commerce Liaison

Nathan Hunnicut, Executive Director

Press

Lewis Delavan, Village Voice

Others Present

Maxine Klein – HSV Resident
David Childs – HSV Resident
Bill Burrough – City Manager

OPENING OF MEETING

Call to Order: Chair Pam Avila called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

Introductions: Guests – Maxine Klein, HSV Resident; David Childs, HSV Resident

Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted.

Minutes: The minutes of the May 3, 2019 meeting were approved as amended.

BILL BURROUGH – HOT SPRINGS CITY MANAGER - GUEST SPEAKER

- Native of Hot Springs
- Goals and Priorities

- Water – Lake Ouachita and Lake Gray, planning a new water plant. Will be boring through to Lake Ouachita – only city in Arkansas to bore this water. Completion 2022.
- Downtown parking – created parking advisory committee and bringing in parking consultants
- Majestic property – no consensus on what to do, not ready for RFP. Thinking of doing marketability study to help narrow down options. Retaining thermal waters is important. High priority.
- Discussed Oaklawn’s major expansion and how it will bring in significant additional revenue
- Creating comprehensive plan to pull together all the departmental plans
- Discussed improving relationship with county and Village, more collaboration

POA REPORTS

Mike Medica – POA Board Liaison

- Relayed committee appointments from Board

Lesley Nalley – POA CEO

- Where to Retire has named HSV as one of the top places to retire in U.S. (only planned community). POA staff has worked very hard for exposure
- Suddenlink issue – scheduling problems. Greg Jones will help with contact.
- 50th Anniversary Committee moving forward. Bob Shoemaker on committee. Asked that GAC reach out to officials to invite to 50th celebration, April 20th, 2020. Bob Shoemaker shared early plans and steps thus far. Want to make Cooper Communities a key part of process and celebration.

CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS

- Still looking for candidates for GAC, especially someone with health care background
- Schedule of speakers for next several months
- Kevin Sexton, POA staff, and Dr. Rossi, CHI St. Vincent will be speaking in July

GAC SUB-COMMITTE REPORTS

Special Report on Census Meeting – Jim Zahnd and Curt Malone

- Census Bureau wants community involvement to ensure better participation, better data
- Want from HSV
 - Committee to serve as outreach arm (public relations – provide info)
 - Appoint liaison to be single point of contact in community
- Good count is important to HSV in numerous ways, including reapportionment
- GAC will form a Census subcommittee that will include non-GAC members. Lesley Nalley suggested Renee Haugen serve as staff liaison. Jim Zahnd and Curt Malone will form this subcommittee.

Broadband – Greg Jones

- Suddenlink has officially approved construction on Binefar

Hot Springs and Garland County – Jerry Yeric

No additional report beyond written submitted report

Tri-Lakes – David Whitlow

No additional report beyond written submitted report

J.P. COMMENTS

J.P. Report Garland County – Larry Raney

- Still challenges with new jail – finding staff.

J.P. Report Saline County – Keith Keck

- County noise ordinance DOA.
- Metro Plan – separate MPOs will be causing problems in solving transportation across the region

SCHOOLS

Dr. Murphy - Superintendent of Schools/Fountain Lake

- School Board lost key member, appointed Lloyd Little from HSV to fill vacancy until election
- Working to expand relationships with Village groups
- Encouraged Village to keep students in mind to help with 50th anniversary events
- Garland County voters were more supportive of millage increase than Saline County voters

Old Business

No old business

REMINDERS AND CALENDAR

The next GAC meeting will be Friday, July 12, 2019, at 9:00 AM, Ouachita Events Building, Ponce de Leon Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:31am.

Committee Reports – June 7, 2019

Tri-Lakes Metropolitan Planning Organization Report – David Whitlow

The Policy Board of the Tri-Lakes MPO met on Thursday, May 23rd, at the offices of West Central Arkansas Planning and Development District (WCAPDD) in Hot Springs.

Two voting actions were presented by the MPO staff:

1. Unified Planning Work Program for 2020, and
2. Administrative By-Laws modifications.

Both were passed by the Board. Copies of the Work Program and By-Law Modifications are available at the MPO office.

Study Director Emmily Tiampati presented the 2020 MPO calendar and various deadlines for completion of study projects.

The following projects of interest to Hot Springs Village are scheduled as follows:

- Extension of MLK to Highway 7 North is scheduled to go to bid November 2019.
- Widening of much of Highway 7 North to three lane with curb and gutter is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2020.
- Safety Improvements on Highway 5 to Deer park Road is scheduled for summer 2020.
- Safety Improvements on Highway 7 North to Highway 298 is planned for January 2020.

As of this date, the bridge replacements on the Danville Road are nearing completion but this is still a construction zone with delays possible. Completion is dependent upon weather conditions.

The project to widen 5.5 miles of Interstate 30 to six lanes in Saline County from the Sevier Street exit to the Highway 70 West exit has begun.

Hot Springs—Jerry Yeric

Fountain Lake voters rejected a millage increase in the past school election by an almost two-to-one margin, (1,271 to 659) according to final but unofficial results. The turnout was roughly 6,600 votes. Saline County residents opposed the proposal 441 to 391 while the margin in Garland County was wider 830-268. The turnout rate was 14.7 percent in Garland County and 12.6 in Saline County. A construction crew continues to work on National Park College's campus Wednesday on the new boulevard-type entrance on Mountain Pine Road. The new road will lead up to the new Student Commons building taking shape as part of Phase One of the college's master plan.

The human body is the subject of a new temporary exhibit, "Magnificent Me," that opened at the Mid-America Science Museum.

It's a new era at Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort, as the \$100 million expansion announced in November 2018 is now well underway. The expansion, which will include 28,000 square feet of additional gaming space that will open prior to the 2020 live racing season, was announced following the passage of Issue 4, which became Amendment 100.

Garland County—Jerry Yeric

The Garland County Detention Center's administrator told justices of the peace that demand for bed space at the facility will invariably outpace supply, no matter how many housing units are in operation. Chief Deputy of Corrections, Steven Elrod, told the Garland County Quorum Court Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee that any operational expansion of the 168,000-square-foot facility would be absorbed in short order.

Medical marijuana business in Garland County has been brisk since the state's first legal sale of the drug was transacted. More than 3,100 transactions through the first days produced over 35 pounds in sales, according to information provided by the state Department of Finance and Administration. The cost is \$15 dollars per gram. 13 pounds were sold the first 2 days.

Water samples collected earlier this year on the south and east ends of the city's regional water system exceeded federal limits for a chemical compound linked to increased risks of liver and kidney cancer, violations the city said justify its decision to build a 15 million-gallon a day treatment plant near Amity Road.

The Arkansas Department of Transportation said resurfacing of the King Expressway from the interchanges of Airport Road to Central Avenue could begin as early as the first of June.

David Wasson has been promoted to senior manager of Entergy Arkansas Distribution Operations Southwest Region, based in Hot Springs.

No Written Reports Submitted:

Broadband – Greg Jones

Saline County – Curt Malone

Website – Pam Avila