

MINUTES OF MEETING
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (GAC)
Ouachita Events Building, Ponce de Leon Center, 1101 Desoto Blvd.
Friday, April 5, 2019, 8:00 AM

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present

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

Committee Members Absent

Ex-Officio Members Present

Bob Shoemaker

POA Liaisons

Lesley Nalley, CEO

Other POA Board Members

Mike Medica, Director

Justices of the Peace

Larry Raney, Garland County
Keith Keck, Saline County

School District Liaisons

Dr. Michael Murphy, Fountain Lake
Melissa Speers, Jessieville

Press

Lewis Delavan, Village Voice

Others Present

Josh Farmer, Bryant City Attorney
Clay Ford, Saline County Attorney
Maxine Klein, HSV Property Owner
Ralph Turpin, HSV Property Owner
Jim Zahnd, Former GAC Member

OPENING OF MEETING

Call to Order: Chairman Michael Dollar 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 March 1, 2019 meeting was made by Greg Jones and seconded by Curt Malone. Motion approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Dollar introduced guests, discussed Lu Otto's letter on census issues, and announced that election of the GAC officers for the new year would take place in executive session after the conclusion of this meeting's regular business.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Chairman Dollar introduced Josh Farmer, current City Attorney of Bryant in Saline County. Farmer manages a law practice in Benton. He earned an MBA from Henderson State University and a law degree from the University of Arkansas School of Law in Little Rock.

Farmer came to the meeting to announce his candidacy for Saline County Circuit Court Judge, Division 2. If elected, Farmer would replace Circuit Judge Gary Arnold who is retiring.

POA BOARD REPORT

Director Mike Medica reported the following:

- Several appointments have recently been made to Hot Springs Village committees: two to the Architectural Control Committee, one to Administrative, Fines & Appeals, one to Recreation, and one to the Golf Committee.
- The Board authorized signing the contract to begin construction of the DeSoto Pool.
- Repaving is taking place on 17 miles of Highway 9.

POA CEO'S REPORT

CEO Lesley Nalley reported that:

- She had met recently with the Hot Springs Fifty for the Future organization where the main topic was the status of the Majestic Hotel site.
- Hot Springs Village was represented by three POA leaders at the Travel and Adventure Show in Dallas. The Village contingency received a good response from others at the conference. Over 15,000 were in attendance.
- The CMP Advisory Committee charter was approved and the first meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2019. Keith Keck and Pam Avila will serve on that committee.
- Nalley and Stephanie Heffer attended a Placemaking Conference in Oklahoma. The major topic of discussion was "moving past conflict in a community."

J.P. COMMENTS

JP Report Saline County – Keith Keck

- Clara Nicolosi was appointed to the Livable Communities sub-committee of Metro-Plan and Jason Temple was appointed to the Economic Vitality sub-committee.
- Voting machines are a large issue in Saline County. Many are very old and break down easily. A state grant will be paying half the cost to replace some equipment. The goal is to have the new voting machines in place by the next election.

SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMENTS

Jessieville – Melissa Speers

- The planned parking lot paving is ready to be bid.
- Testing of students is ongoing.
- The district is in the process of hiring five new teacher positions including an assistant coach.
- Student enrollment is steady now at about 830.

Fountain Lake – Dr. Michael Murphy

- Murphy presented an Annual Statistical Report for 2017/2018. This report compared expenditures among the seven school districts in Garland County.
- Murphy explained why Fountain Lake is in need of the 4 mill tax increase. A vote on the increase will take place May 21st. The proposed millage will be split with 1.05 mills for new debt service and 3.95 mills for new maintenance and operation. Other district needs Murphy cited were: staff pay, classroom space and campus traffic safety. Two board seats area also being contested in the May 21st election.

GAC member Jerry Yeric complimented Dr. Murphy on his report. Yeric also complimented Lesley Nalley on the staff's conduction of a very good board election.

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.

GAC COMMITTEE ORAL REPORTS

Broadband – Greg Jones

Reporting on the status of broad band issues, Jones noted that:

- Suddenlink is planning to serve both new and old parts of Maderas Gardens.
- A grant to install Wi-Fi in POA buildings is being submitted to AARP by Stephanie Heffer.

OTHER COMMENTS

Bob Shoemaker complimented the two local school districts for providing excellent education for Hot Springs Village students.

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, May 3rd, 2018, at 8:00 AM, Ouachita Events Building, Ponce de Leon Center.

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR SESSION

A motion was made by Gregg Jones to adjourn the regular meeting and open in Executive Session in order to hold an election for Governmental Affairs Committee officers; motion seconded by Keith Keck. Regular meeting adjourned; executive session proceeded.

RESULTS OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION

Chairman Michael Dollar reported the following action taken in committee of the whole session:

- Motion was made by Gregg Jones to nominate Pam Avila for chairperson; seconded by Curt Malone.
- Motion was made by Curt Malone to nominate Greg Jones for vice-chair; seconded by Jerry Yeric.
- Both motions passed by acclamation.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 am.