

MINUTES OF MEETING
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (GAC)
Ouachita Events Building, Ponce de Leon Center, 1101 Desoto Blvd.
Friday, November 2, 2018, 8:00 AM

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present

Pamela Avila
Michael Dollar
Greg Jones
Keith Keck
Jerry Yeric
Bob Hebert

Committee Members Absent

Lu Otto
Curt Malone
David Whitlow

Ex-Officio Members Present

Bob Cunningham
Mike Medica

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Bob Shoemaker

POA Liaisons

Tom Weiss – Board Chair

Other POA Board Members

Bob Cunningham

Justices of the Peace

Larry Griffin, Garland County (absent)
Jim Zahnd, Saline County

School District Liaisons

Dr. Michael Murphy, Fountain Lake
Melissa Speers, Jessieville (absent)

Press

Lewis Delavan, Village Voice

Others Present

Linda Ragsdale
Jan Eversman

OPENING OF MEETING

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

Introductions: Guests – Linda Ragsdale and Jan Eversman welcomed

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted.

Minutes: The minutes of the October 5, 2018 meeting were approved.

Comments: Chamber has been participating in outreach calling for Saline County Issue 6 and the response has been very positive overall. Dr. Shepherd, Exec. Director for Center of Econ Dev and community engagement, Henderson State University, holding discussion on dev of regional econ dev approach for Garland and adjacent counties. Michael will submit names of GAC members for invitation.

POA REPORTS

Governance Report –Tom Weiss

- Proxies are out
- Budget was approved at the last Board meeting

GAC SUB-COMMITTE REPORTS

Metro Plan – Keith Keck

- Presented info about bus service, which currently only runs in Pulaski County. Need for service farther out – into Saline County.
- Study started about HOV lanes into Little Rock. 3 committees for Metro Plan – looking for someone from Village (Saline County) to serve on one committee.
- Metro Plan has drafted Arkansas 2050 – will go out for public comment soon

Hot Springs and Garland County – Jerry Yeric

City of Hot Springs has purchased land for water treatment plant, building water towers

Garland County

- Mountain Valley Spring Water has been sold to Florida-based company.
- Budget issues impacting detention center – not enough funds to fully open
- Early voting encountered some problems at the onset
- Surpassed early voting numbers from 2014

Broadband – Greg Jones

Suddenlink has started construction in one of the neighborhoods in the Village. Plans for 5 other projects here.

J.P. COMMENTS

J.P. Report Saline County – Jim Zahnd

Series of public meetings in early November on location of the Southwest Trail that will run from Little Rock to Hot Springs.

Comment from Bob Shoemaker about how well the Village has been served over the years by both of the Justices of the Peace – for Saline and Garland Counties.

Schools

Superintendent of Schools/Fountain Lake - Dr. Michael Murphy

Working on new facilities for elementary school. Will be assessing level of community support and various options.

REMINDERS AND CALENDAR

November 30 – 9am – Regular Board Meeting at Coronado Community Center. Will reconvene after lunch for Declarations vote.

The next GAC meeting will be Friday, December 7, 2018, at 8:00 AM, Ouachita Events Building, Ponce de Leon Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 am.