



GAC – QUARTERLY REVIEW

NOVEMBER 2019

As always, the primary focus of the GAC remains on HSV relationships with external jurisdictions. We work collaboratively with school, water, and fire districts; state, county and municipal governments; departments including highways, planning, broadband and law enforcement; medical facilities, services and providers; and more. To help make this happen, GAC members serve on numerous committees outside the Village and monitor various organizations including:

- TriLakes Metro Planning Org/Highways
- City of Hot Springs
- Garland County
- Saline County MPO
- Benton GAC
- Open – City of Benton/Benton Chamber

Other key relationships are fostered through attendance of and reports by:

- Superintendents of both Jessieville and Fountain Lake School Districts
- Saline and Garland County JP's
- Exec. Director of HSV Chamber of Commerce (when there is one)

Our priorities for this year continue to be:

- **Broadband** – spearheaded by Greg Jones, working with Lesley Nalley, and on his own has developed working relationships with both Suddenlink and AT&T as he lobbies hard to get better internet service to the Village. He is also current on the Rural Broadband Grant and in communication with key players who are working to assure that the grant is available to areas like HSV – not just metro areas.
- **Health Services** – we are still trying to locate the Health Services Directory that was started 2 years ago as part of the HSV Health Services Study undertaken by Richard Johnson and Lu Otto. Cheri Nelson, our healthcare committee member, recently attended the open house for the new CHI St. Vincent facility outside the West Gate.
- **Demographics** With Jim Zahnd as Chairperson, the 2020 Census subcommittee is preparing to gear up for the 2020 Census. Jim and POA staff liaison Renee Haugen have each attended 2020 Complete Count training sessions conducted by regional 2020 Census Partnership Specialists. One 2020 Census subcommittee sub-group continues to work with state and regional officials and agencies to assure the Census Designated Place for Hot Springs Village is correctly defined, and liaison has been established with the chairs of the Saline County and Garland County Complete Count Committees. Both have been invited to attend the HSV committee’s meetings.
- **Education** – the GAC held its October and November meetings on the campuses of Jessieville and Fountain Lake Schools respectively. At Jessieville, the GAC members toured classrooms and learned more about the CTE (Career Technical Education) program at that school as well as the EAST program. For those not familiar with this newer program, **EAST**, originally an acronym for Environmental and Spatial Technology, is an educational **program** that combines elements of technology education, collaborative teamwork, and service learning in a model that stresses student engagement. The Village has benefited from some of the Fountain Lake student EAST projects and there will be more opportunities in the future. The CTE and EAST programs at both Jessieville and Fountain Lake are part of a nation-wide effort to ensure there are properly qualified workers entering our workforce. With almost 1,000 students from the Village attending these two schools, it is important for us to be familiar with their programs and their successes.

The other current key activity for the GAC is the development of a “cheat sheet” of local, regional and state government to help Village newcomers understand the various political offices and areas of responsibility for Arkansas. As elections come closer, it is important that the Village electorate be educated and knowledgeable voters. The GAC is working on the first step in this process, thanks to new committee member Mike Hood.

The goal for this year has been to expand our understanding of what goes on outside the Village via a speaker at each meeting. In addition to the robust list of speakers that have already come in front of the GAC, including but not limited to, Dr. Ross, Pres. of CHI St. Vincent, the Hot Springs City Manager, Senator Bill Sample, and Benton Mayor Tom Farmer, the list for the next months is equally robust and relevant. Thanks to the work of one of our other new members, David Childs, the GAC will be hearing from:

- Judge Ayer from Saline County
- Judge Mahoney from Garland County
- Greg Mabrey, President of the Downtown Hot Springs Business Assoc.
- Quorum Court from each county (special sessions – not part of our regular meetings)
- ARDOT

And that concludes my report! Any questions?