

Westshore Council of Governments  
Regular Meeting  
Gemini Center, Fairview Park  
January 8, 2014

Meeting called to order at 9:45 AM

1. ROLL CALL

In attendance: Mayors Patton, Bobst, Summers and Sutherland; Fiscal Officer Steve Presley and County Councilman Dave Greenspan

Absent: Mayors Clough and Kennedy

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept minutes of December 11 as amended made by Mayor Summers, second by Mayor Bobst, motion carried.

3. COMMISSION REPORTS

a. RTA – No report.

b. NOACA – Members affirmed Mayor Sutherland as Westshore appointee to NOACA Board. NOACA future leadership and all leadership posts coming up. Concerns were raised that Cuyahoga County is not be represented in any leadership role. The suggestion was made to caucus as a county in order to ensure issues were considered from Cuyahoga County. Mayor Summers will speak with Nate Kelly regarding organizing a caucus.

Look to invite Grace Gallucci to provide PowerPoint® Presentation at upcoming meeting.

c. Land Bank – no report from Mayor Kennedy. Mayor Summers provided insight regarding the Land Bank's desire to become more involved in the economic development side; already performing on residential side. Invite Gus Frangos back to update group toward the end of the year.

d. County Planning Commission (CPC) – Mayor Patton received a call from CPC that she had been reappointed as a representative by the Planning Commission. Councilperson Greenspan to look into appointment to determine whether additional representation is called for. A motion was made by Mayor Summers, seconded by Mayor Bobst, to appoint Mayor Patton as the Westshore representative to the CPC; motion carried.

e. Senior Transportation – Mayor Summers reported that Lakewood has been using cab vouchers with some success (in addition to two buses.) Discussion followed regarding the increase in demand for transportation of seniors to the Cleveland Clinic Richard E. Jacobs Health Center in Avon.

Mayor Patton explained the disadvantages to accepting grant money from the government which can be very limiting, including the inability to charge for

transportation (donations only.) Because Fairview Park owns its own vehicles, it has an independently run transportation program to better meet the needs of its seniors. Vans transport seniors using a priority system: e.g., medical appointments, drug store, and grocery store, then other appointments as time allows. Fairview will begin charging senior residents as follows: Round Trip within Fairview Park – \$3; Round Trip outside Fairview Park – \$5; and Round Trip across the County Line – \$10. Monies collected are placed in a van replacement fund so that they can be replaced when needed. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of a Westshore senior transportation hub.

The City of Bay Village reported on a bed bug issue in one of its subsidized senior housing units. Infested apartment with involvement from County Health Department and pest control. Mayor Sutherland suggested providing info to local first responders and encouraging precautions to prevent spreading.

- f. Cuyahoga County Mayors and Managers Association – No report.

#### 4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Bill Denihan Email

Mayor Patton to have follow-up conversation with FP Police Chief regarding help from County. Critical Incident Training should include other personnel, e.g., librarians, teams in the community to deal with individuals with mental health issues

- b. Fire Study: Mayor Sutherland has requested a meeting be set up as soon as possible. She will follow with Mayor Clough regarding grant documents.

#### 5. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. FirstAid4Autism

Mayor Patton introduced FirstAid4Autism Training Program. First Responders who have this training are better equipped to handle children. 1 in 50 children are affected. Seminar for First Responders teaches prevalent behavior of autistic child and young adult. \$400 fee for training – collective session provided by COG – set up as “Train the Trainer” (eg. one Officer from each shift, Juvenile Officer, Police Chief, Executive Officer, maybe Fire Department.) Get approval of COG to set up program. Combine training with county offers if possible.

- b. Civil Service

Mayor Patton questioned if it could be possible to issue one entrance exam for Police and Fire for all of the Westshore communities combined. Mayor Summers believes the subject was discussed in past and may have some data on it. Discussion suggested the possibility for entrance exam only (would not work for promotional exams,) though cost-savings are unclear. Fiscal Officer Presley suggested savings would be found on advertising the testing. Mayor Patton offered that one test might bring in a bigger pool of candidates, noting that a recent entrance exam for Police Officers was alarmingly low at 51 applicants.

Members present acknowledged that timing is very important. With testing every year, there would be no stale test. Fairview Park Civil Service Secretary to follow with Westshore Reps to begin the process of developing a schedule. Mayors recognized that one test for all Westshore community would prove advantageous to applicants by saving money for application fees.

c. Timing of Meetings

The question was raised whether it was necessary to meet every month or on an as-needed basis. The decision was made to continue monthly meetings as needed through March and evaluate the necessity following passage of the budget.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS: County Council Updates (Dave Greenspan)

Councilperson Greenspan will hold a Town Hall meeting on January 23 in Bay Village. The meeting will include a recognition ceremony of council members who did not seek reelection or who were not reelected.

Euclid Jail issue still unresolved. Euclid has eliminated its corrections officers. The county is not prepared to take over – no budgeting for it. Councilperson Greenspan will provide updates as they are acquired.

Sin tax – GCP is advocating it be placed on the ballot in May. A vote by Cuyahoga County Council is expected by Jan 28. Councilperson Greenspan suggested that it may not pass Council due to the fact that the last time it appeared on the ballot, it failed in the City of Cleveland. Outer ring suburbs carried it then but skepticism exists whether they will support it again. Councilperson Greenspan suggested that the county and the City of Cleveland get together and use casino revenue to offset or lower the sin tax. Mr. Greenspan shared that Cleveland and Cuyahoga County are responsible for maintenance of the facilities (Quicken Loans Arena, First Energy Stadium and Progressive Field) at ~ \$12 MM per year. Cleveland is responsible for the two outdoor stadiums, Cuyahoga County is accountable for the arena.

February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> there will be training for the seven newly elected council members in the Westshore (40 county-wide.) All been invited. Friday's session includes sunshine law training with six hour training on Saturday at CSU. Greenspan is working with mayors and managers to set curriculum

Annual softball tournament to be held in Fairview Park at its Summerfest festival at the end of June.

With no additional business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Sutherland, seconded by Mayor Bobst, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:47 AM.