

Westshore Council of Governments
Regular Meeting
Gemini Center, Fairview Park
June 11, 2014

Meeting began at 9:55 AM

1. ROLL CALL

In attendance: Mayors Bobst, Kennedy, Patton, Summers and Sutherland; Fiscal Officer Steve Presley; County Councilman Dave Greenspan; Bay Village Finance Director, Renee Mahoney

Absent: Mayor Clough

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept minutes of May 14 made by Mayor Sutherland, second by Mayor Summers; Mayors Bobst and Clough abstained; motion carried.

3. COMMISSION REPORTS

A. RTA – Mayor Kennedy had nothing new to report.

Mayor Summers mentioned the possible green pathway which would be situated next to RTA starting at West 65 into downtown Cleveland. It is a strip of land that goes over all of the RTA bridges to the Terminal Tower. It has great potential for a dedicated bike path, safe ingress and egress would be necessary, but has the potential to connect bike capacity from Hilliard in Rocky River to Lakewood to West 65 in Cleveland.

Mayor Summers also reported on the widening of Clifton Road which includes new transit waiting stations (formerly known as bus stops) and resurfacing. RTA will provide transit hotlines and cameras. Communication connection – transit riders will know the wait times for each bus.

B. NOACA – Mayor Sutherland reports that NOACA has not met since last COG meeting.

Mayor Bobst reported that Rocky River received a TLCI grant and they will be partnering with Lakewood to complete a traffic study and feasibility analysis of the removal of the Marion ramp in Rocky River. Developers are interested in that area. The study is needed to determine how residents and business owners feel about the removal of the ramp. A new north/south connector would be needed. Linda Street is the next north/south street.

Mayor Bobst provided an update on the Fitworks location on Detroit Road which is to become a Whole Foods store, the 264 unit Brighton Chase Apartment complex, as well as other development projects in Rocky River.

- C. Land Bank – Mayor Kennedy had nothing new to report but offered to help others with projects they may be working on.

Mayor Bobst inquired about the possibility of having a discussion with the Cuyahoga County Land Bank with regard to remediation of the land across from Bradstreet’s Landing.

Mayor Summers reported that Lakewood is currently working with the Cuyahoga County Land Bank on the demolition of the Hilliard Theater.

Fairview Park has approached the Land Bank about a project with regard to the property next to the Gemini Center.

Mayor Kennedy will check on the projects with the Land Bank.

Councilperson Greenspan provided an update on the County Executive’s proposal for a \$50 million property demolition fund. County Council is currently evaluating its bonding ability. The county already has many commitments and wishes to proceed cautiously.

- D. County Planning Commission (CPC) – Mayor Patton indicated that the next meeting of the CPC is June 12 and that they were still meeting at the viaduct. The City of Lakewood is initiating a citizen task force on recreation/active living. They have solicited a bid from CPC to facilitate that. They can offer these types of solicitation services. The task force will be citizen-led.

Mayor Bobst reported that the City of Rocky River is in the process of updating its Master Plan and would consider using the Planning Commission as its facilitator.

- E. Cuyahoga County Mayors and Managers Association – Mayor Sutherland reported on a very successful trip to Columbus. The group met with leadership in the Ohio House and Senate as well as with Auditor Yost. They were concerned about a clause that would require municipalities to track and report to the state income tax receipts delineated by residential versus those created by jobs. The clause has since been removed. Auditor Yost also indicated that implementation of GASB 68 may be delayed.

Mayor Sutherland informed the group that discussions are still ongoing regarding HB 5. She relayed that it has come down to four issues; three can be resolved easily with a few language changes. The one issue of concern is the five-year carry forward which primarily affects more southern Ohio communities.

4. OLD BUSINESS

Tub Grinder: nothing new to report.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Mayor Sutherland wanted to bring everyone's attention to the fact that Steve Presley will transition the Fiscal Officer duties to Renee Mahoney, Financial Director of Bay Village. Members present wished Mr. Presley well and thanked him for his many years of dedicated service.
- B. Mayor Patton relayed that the four City Councils of Bay Village, Fairview Park, Rocky River and Westlake have all accepted the grant money received to begin the study/implementation of a Fire District. The four cities will be moving in that direction with input from the community and firefighters. Mayor Clough and Bay Village Fire Chief, Chris Lyons are co-chairs.
- C. Mayor Bobst detailed a meeting with local Mayors, Central Dispatch and Cuyahoga County's Brandi Carney to talk about the county establishing a PSAP. This is being driven due to state mandates. Mr. Greenspan feels that this is a local decision; that Westcom is already running smoothly and could be used as a model for future operations.
- D. Renee Mahoney introduced a seminar that will be held in the City of Bay Village for public employees and for those who are not yet ready to retire. PERS representatives will be there. There is no cost for the seminar(s.) She asked that members distribute the information to city personnel.
- E. Mayor Patton reported on Fairview Park's Realtor Conference, recently held in conjunction with representatives from the school system, which was very successful in promoting the city. The event provided a free lunch along with continuing education class. Received great feedback from realtors.
- F. Westshore cities are actively promoting Ready Notify, the county's free notification system. Cities plan to run two platforms for a short period of time. County representatives will be represented at the Fairview Park summer festival and will have equipment on site for people to enroll.
- G. The Chair raised the question of recessing for July and August. Should there be any issues which need to be discussed during those months, contact Mayor Patton who will set up a meeting. Motion made by Mayor Sutherland, second by Mayor Summers; vote was unanimous; motion carried.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Bobst reported that Cleveland Magazine ranked Rocky River low in its “Rating the Suburbs” issue due to a mistake in reporting.

Dave Greenspan – County Council Updates:

CERT Softball Tournament: Participation and sponsorship are down, however, they are hopeful to be able to contribute the same amount of money as last year. Softball teams are from Fairview Park, CERT, Cuyahoga County Sheriff’s Department, and Olmsted Township.

Road works project is gaining support on County Council. The current plan is to set up two funds, the first is to provide funds for the materials to repair county and/or state routes in your city – labor would be provided by the municipality, however, Public works mandates that communities accept the Master Service Agreement. The second fund would be for cities that deemed financially unable to make the necessary repairs – the county would make the repair and then assess the city for the labor costs.

Mr. Greenspan explained that during recent storms, it became apparent that cities don’t necessarily have dumping rights. The county will investigate the possibility of a Master Landfill Rights agreement to allow dumping in an emergency situation in which municipalities can use their own trucks and dump refuse.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned. Motion made by Mayor Sutherland, Second by Mayor Bobst; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 10

Gemini Center – Birch Room

9:30 AM

Additional parking is available at the FP Library, 21255 Lorain Road