

Westshore Council of Governments  
Regular Meeting  
Gemini Center, Fairview Park  
September 10, 2014

Meeting began at 9:35 AM Quorum Achieved at 9:48 AM

1. ROLL CALL

In attendance: Mayors Bobst, Clough, Patton, and Summers; Fiscal Officer Steve Presley  
Absent: Mayors Kennedy and Sutherland

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: County Councilman Dave Greenspan; Bay Village Finance Director, Renee Mahoney, Cuyahoga County Director of Regional Collaboration, Jennifer Scofield

2. JENNIFER SCOFIELD, CUYAHOGA COUNTY DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL COLLABORATION: Ms. Scofield provided an overview of shared services currently offered by Cuyahoga County. She reviewed a summary of the services currently being utilized by the Westshore communities. As part of her position, she will continue the economic development initiatives made available by her predecessor.

Mayor Summers questioned the continued use of REDDS (Regional Enterprise Data Sharing Systems) with a concern is that the system is falling out of favor. Director Scofield indicated that the program is expected to become more visible and effective under the direction of Norberto Colon, Deputy Chief of Staff, Justice.

Mayor Patton asked about the county's cyber security assistance program. Director Scofield offered to provide Mayor Patton with a contact to obtain information.

Mr. Greenspan mentioned the county's updated GIS system, which aspires to include information on the county's platform which is obtained from all municipalities and make it available to all without cost. The county envisions a comprehensive, multi-layered planning tool. Councilman Greenspan offered to have county trainers present the information to the Westshore communities if they wished to review it.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes of June 11 was made by Mayor Bobst, second by Mayor Summers; Mayor Clough abstained resulting in a lack of quorum for approval. Minutes will be resubmitted for approval at the October 8 meeting.

4. COMMISSION REPORTS

A. RTA – No report.

- B. NOACA – Annual meeting is Friday, September 12. Mayor Summers reiterated the necessity of voting as a bloc in order to obtain a “fix it first” result as opposed to thinning the funding by spreading it around. Historically, Cuyahoga County’s lack of voting discipline has resulted in a poor job of fighting for the region’s interests.
  - C. Land Bank – No report.
  - D. County Planning Commission (CPC) – No report.
  - E. Cuyahoga County Mayors and Managers Association – annual dinner to acknowledge Steve LaTourette and Sam Miller. Next meeting is September 25.
4. OLD BUSINESS – No report.
5. NEW BUSINESS:
- A. Following a motion made by Mayor Bobst, Second Mayor Patton, the appointment of Renee Mahoney to Fiscal Officer of the Westshore Council of Governments passed unanimously. Members present thanked Steve Presley for his many years of service. (Renee Mahoney is currently the Finance Director of Bay Village which is a member of the Westshore COG. Her appointment assures continuity for the group and its direction.)
  - B. Fleet Management/Alternative Fuel: Mayor Summers asked the group to consider long term goals regarding alternative fuel stations. As communities replace vehicles, many will be utilizing alternative fuel, resulting in a need for these types of depots. He suggested that it is important to consider long term investments where grants are available and that, as a group, it would be prudent consider as fleets become less reliant on diesel fuel. Mayor Summers will take the lead and invite Clean Fuels Ohio to speak to the group. Service Directors should attend that meeting.
  - C. NOPEC – Mayor Summers questioned if other communities were actively promoting NOPEC’s gas aggregation. The consensus was that cities let NOPEC present its own story.
  - D. Mayor Summers announced that the City of Lakewood successfully came to an agreement with the federal and Ohio EPAs. He indicated that it was a very good agreement requiring some sensible investment.
  - E. Mayor Bobst requested a Tri City Park meeting be held ½ hour before next Westshore COG meeting. The meeting is required to achieve the meeting requirement and to elect officers.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dave Greenspan – County Council Updates:

Councilman Greenspan indicated that the road works ordinance is expected to be instituted later this year or early next year. Mayors are required to make the request. Budget hearings are held in October; once completed, the county should begin lining up the projects. Be on the lookout.

Councilman Greenspan will conduct a Town Hall Meeting on October 16 at the CCC Westlake campus. The county prosecutor will be presenting. CCC will also discuss its levy on November's ballot and Cuyahoga County's four charter amendments will be discussed.

Discussions have begun on the demolition fund. No information has been provide from the Executive other than the fund will be established. Talk is that the program will be a grant program. Criteria that will need to be met in order to be eligible for the grant. Grants will be issued in 10,000 unit blocks; no city can apply for more than \$1 million in one year. A second round is included once 80% is reached. There is incentive to use the Cuyahoga County land bank for demolition. \$10,000 can only be used for demolition, no administrative costs. If the land bank is engaged, then 2% may go to administrative costs. Councilman Greenspan would prefer it to be a no interest loan program to communities, with payment be due no later than the term of the bond. County would take out any property tax appreciation. Local criteria must define blighted status. Public safety or nuisance issues may allow for cities to move in. The county is now setting parameters for the program.

Mayor Patton suggested County Council might want to address the problem of banks that own foreclosed homes and “hold cities hostage” by not maintaining its properties. Much time and effort is wasted trying to find responsible parties to complete basics such as lawn care and general property maintenance. Council Greenspan indicated that there are currently discussions being held about some type of action.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned. Motion made by Mayor Summers, second by Mayor Bobst; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

**Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 8**

Gemini Center – Birch Room

9:30 AM

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