

SSMMA BUSINESS MEETING  
MARCH 18, 2021 - ZOOM  
MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ward was unable to attend the meeting so Mayor Kolosh called the ZOOM meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions in the chat box.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kolosh asked for a motion to approve the February 18, 2021 meeting minutes. Mayor Braun moved and it was seconded by Mayor Eidam, motion was approved.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Kolosh reported that SSMMA wishes to recognize outgoing Mayors Williams, Rogers and Qualkinbush who were not successful in their primary challenge but will continue to serve until May. Also, Mayors Braun, Popp, Szymanski and Vandenburg have decided to retire. Thank you for your work in the Southland and we wish you well. Election Day is April 6, good luck to everyone.

B. President Ward has named a Nominating Committee for the 2021-22 Slate of Officers consisting of Mayors Ford, Reinbold, and Williams. Please let Director DeLaurentiis, Melissa Doud or committee members know of your interest in serving on the Executive Committee by May 1.

C. Mayor Braun expressed the need to serve on the Executive Committee or any role in the Association and has enjoyed his time serving. He gave an update on the Regional Task Force as they have been meeting once, sometimes twice a week regularly to maintain a relationship with Governor Pritzker's office and IDPH. They have been working on vaccine sites and speeding up the process into Phase 5. Currently, 800,000 doses are being distributed weekly with the goal of 1 million. Starting April 12, everyone over 16 is eligible for the vaccination. "Bridge" from Phase 4-5 is being discussed and the rate of vaccination is now included in part of the metrics for moving between phases. Masking will be required indefinitely until the CDC states otherwise. A discussion followed.

D. Director DeLaurentiis reported on the Southland Black Mayoral Caucus vaccination event held this past Saturday with Walgreens. Two thousand vaccinations were given by appointment only. SSMMA is working with Walgreens to try and get more events in the area. Dr. Green noted that there will be an event at GSU but it's only open to teachers by appointment. A discussion followed.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Director DeLaurentiis reported on the American Rescue Plan which provides significant resources and direct allotments to units of local government to be used to address the pandemic and its negative economic impacts. Support to include lost revenues, programs/services, small businesses, jobs of first responders/frontline/essential workers, mortgage/rental assistance among many others. SSMMA will share as more information and Federal Guidelines become available.

Rick Bryant of Congresswoman Robin Kelly's office discussed that Congress has approved earmarks and will provide direct funding for communities for small one-time projects (in the \$100-300K range). Projects should be shovel ready, able to be completed in one year and has some matching fund requirements. They will take proposals and try to prioritize them. Each congressional district can submit only 10 projects and the deadline is March 31.

B. Southland Development Authority's (SDA) Bo Kemp gave a presentation. SSMMA Mayors Alsberry, Reinbold and Flossmoor Trustee Diane Williams are on the Board. Their mission is to collaboratively design and support implementation of comprehensive, transformative, inclusive economic growth in the south suburbs. Municipalities can leverage the SDA for local business enhancements, marketing and investment attraction and incentive strategies. More information can be found at [www.southlanddevelopment.org](http://www.southlanddevelopment.org) or email [bo.kemp@southlanddevelopment.org](mailto:bo.kemp@southlanddevelopment.org).

## 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Mayor Reinbold reported on the following topics:

1. Check out SSMMA's new website with Legislative Priorities and the Southland Reactivation Act (HB 1842, SB 2178) now available at <https://www.ssmma.org/legislation>.  
Support Bills:
  - HB 1842, SB 2178 Southland Reactivation Act
  - HB 1 Illiana Task Force to address crime/illegal guns
  - HB 5 Unfunded Mandates
  - HB 315 Restore LGDG to 10% (may form coalition with other COGS, MMC, IML)
  - HB 412, SB 2192 Exempt municipalities from GATA
  - HB 2411 Brownfield Redevelopment and Intermodal Promotion Act (BRIMPA)Oppose Bills:
  - HB 267 Inspection limits
  - HB 340 Recall of Local Office Holders
  - Referenda bills not needed
  - Unfunded mandates

There were over 4000 bills filed in the legislature this session and the deadline for moving them out of committee is March 26. Another bill to watch is HB 116 which allows municipalities to pose rent controls on regular and commercial units. A discussion followed.
2. Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC) 2021 Legislative Priorities is consistent with many of SSMMA's priorities.  
Kolosh asked for a motion to approve the 2021 Legislative Priorities. Mayor Roudez moved and Mayor Braun seconded, motion was approved.
3. Watch for news on Briefings and Action Alerts from IML and SSMMA. The weekly legislative calls with Anderson Consulting resumed last week on Mondays 3 p.m. until further notice. A discussion followed.

### B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mayor Kolosh reported on the following COVID-19 topics:

1. State of Illinois has had over 1.2 million cases of COVID-19, SSMMA area 64,434; 21,000+ deaths, SSMMA area 1200 deaths; vaccination rates are lumped in with Region 10 and we are requesting information by zip code to add to SSMMA's COVID-19 Dashboard.
2. Governor Pritzker is planning a "Bridge" to Phase 5 Re-opening. This is a MMC Task Force initiative as reported by Mayor Braun. 70% of residents 65 and older need to be vaccinated and no reversals in hospitalizations or deaths for a 28 day period.
3. State of Illinois has distributed 4.3 million doses out of 12.6 million residents. 61% over the age of 65 and 28% for ages 16 and older have been given at least the first dose. A discussion followed.
4. SSMMA will provide updates about rules and eligibility of expenses for American Rescue Plan allocations and will keep everyone informed.

### C. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Mayor Einhorn reported on the following topics:

1. The next Transportation Committee meeting has been moved to Tuesday, April 13 via Zoom.
2. Rebuild Illinois will be releasing more funds, 3 of 6 distributions.
3. The STP quarterly reports are due at the end of March to Leslie Phemister.

#### D. HOUSING COLLABORATIVE

Mayor Ford reported on the following topics:

1. The Cook County Emergency Rental Assistance program has a very short window of opportunity for landlords and tenants, applications will be accepted March 11- April 4. The South Suburban Housing Center and 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District Housing Task Force hosted an informational webinar about the program. SSMMA has been sharing information/resources that will be useful for those in need, please share and help your residents.
2. The next Housing Committee meeting is April 15 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom.

#### E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/CSEDC

Reggie Greenwood reported on the following topics:

1. The Amazon in University Park will be online in May, Country Club Hills in June, Matteson and Markham in October. CSEDC is working with the mayors to maximize the number of jobs and training in the southland. These municipalities are passing Resolutions to work together to come to Amazon to make it clear that they need to work with us for jobs. CSEDC is trying to get grants from DCEO to establish a training program for the types of jobs available, 3500 total.
2. CSEDC was awarded a grant to build out shared office space and an ecommerce facility and have developed a training program working on helping smaller companies develop expertise in ecommerce. Looking for ways we can ask Amazon help more local businesses effectively participate in ecommerce.

#### F. SOUTH SUBURBAN ECONOMIC GROWTH INITIATIVE

No report.

#### 6. REGIONAL AGENCY REPORTS

None

#### 7. OTHER

#### 8. ADJOURNMENT

Kolosh asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Mayor Braun and seconded by Mayor Reinbold, meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.