

SSMMA BUSINESS MEETING
APRIL 15, 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 6:02 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 March 18, 2021 meeting minutes. Mayor Reinbold moved and it was seconded by Mayor Braun, motion was approved.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Kolosh reported that SSMMA wishes to recognize outgoing mayors-thank you for your work in the Southland and we wish you well. Congratulations to all the returning mayors and new mayors and we look forward to working with you, SSMMA is here to help. Eleven municipalities have new mayors: Beecher, Blue Island, Calumet City, Dixmoor, Dolton, Flossmoor, Ford Heights, Lynwood, Monee, Robbins and Tinley Park. New Flossmoor Mayor Michelle Nelson introduced herself and is looking forward to working with everyone to advance the Southland.

B. The Nominating Committee for the 2021-22 Slate of Officers consisting of Mayors Ford, Reinbold, and Williams need your nominations for the Executive Committee positions available. Please let Director DeLaurentiis, Melissa Doud or committee members know of your interest by April 29.

C. Mayor Braun gave a MMC Regional Task Force (RTF) update: The RTF is still trying to push for the bridge phase of reopening, there was some talk of regressing back from where we are now but that seems to have passed. The vaccine rollout is doing well with many towns participating in pop-up clinics. The RTF continues to be in contact with the Governor and IDPH.

Mayor Alsberry also reported that they are meeting to address the Governor's proposed 10% cut Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) impacting municipal funds; 9 Councils of Governments (COG) including SSMMA are planning to roll out a campaign this upcoming week against the LGDF cuts as it is detrimental to municipalities in the Southland. He also expressed his thanks to Mayor Braun for all his hard work, he will be missed.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Director DeLaurentiis reported that all the COGs are working together with MMC and IML to address the restoration of LGDF. A public campaign will begin next week with one mayor representing each COG. The press release and information will be available to share.

B. SSMMA and Comcast are hosting a Newly Elected Officials Webinar on Saturday, May 15, 2021. All newly elected officials and officials that need a refresher course are invited to attend. Stay tuned for registration information.

C. The Incoming Officers Gala on June 18 has been canceled. We will hold a regular board meeting on June 17 at 6:00 as usual via Zoom. We are hoping to gather for the first time since 2020 on September 16 for the Member Appreciation Dinner/Vendor Fair at Glenwoodie. Stay tuned for confirmation and details.

D. DeLaurentiis welcomed Cook County Commissioners Sims, Commissioner Miller's Ryan Washabaugh, and Commissioner Morrison's Kathy Hilton for joining the meeting; and recognized Congressman Rush's Marcel Bright for joining the meeting. Sims congratulated the newly elected and offered her support for any upcoming issues; a discussion was had on the status of the golf course in Homewood/Hazel Crest. Marcel Bright reminded everyone to make sure they are taking advantage of all grants available to the municipalities. Ryan Washabaugh announced that the Family Christian Health Center's Maternal/Child Health is now open in Harvey to serve Southland women

and children.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Mayor Reinbold reported on the following topics:

1. There's optimism right now for SB 2178, SSMMA's Southland Reactivation Act. Senator Sims is expected to call it into Committee next week. Senator Harris has signed on as a co-sponsor and Senator Hastings is expected to sign on also. We are looking to get CMAP's support as it aligns with their goals.
Action alerts went out for:
 - HB 171 (Firefighters Pension)-Walsh-oppose
 - SB 643 (Overrides local control in state disaster)-Murphy-oppose
 - SB 2192 (GATA)-Sims-support
2. A letter was sent to Governor Pritzker and the IL Gaming Board (IGB) about the gaming license delay. SSMMA had a meeting with the IGB, legislators and affected municipal parties that was productive. They are hoping to make a decision on the site location in the next 6 months and narrow the applicants from 4 to 3. Representatives Meyers-Martin, DeLuca, Davis, Evans, Smith and Ozinga supported us and asked questions. A discussion followed.
3. IML's Lobby Day has been canceled for in person meetings but is still sending out important information and asking us to reach out to our legislators virtually. More information will be shared when available.
4. SSMMA submitted testimony at the Redistricting Hearing asking that the current districts be maintained. Mayors wish to maintain long standing relationships with current legislators.
5. SSMMA is asking for support for the LGDF restoration initiative discussed by Director DeLaurentiis and Mayor Alsberry. We want mayors engaged and in contact with local businesses on the effect of losing LGDF.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mayor Kolosh reported on the following COVID-19 topics:

1. We have surpassed the 70% threshold of people 65+ with at least 1 vaccination to move to the Bridge phase. Ages 16+ stands at 47%, but 50% is needed for Bridge phase. State of Illinois has had reported 23,319 positive cases.
2. Test positivity rates:
 - Region 7 (Will, Kankakee): 6%
 - Region 10 (suburban Cook): 5.7%
 - Region 11 (Chicago): 5.8%
3. There is \$80 million allocated to SSMMA municipalities out of \$13.7 billion for Illinois in the American Rescue Plan. The Treasury payments must be distributed by May 31, 2021 and at least half of funding distributed 60-90 days with the remaining funds 12 months later from the State. Funds must be spent by December 31, 2024. SSMMA will provide Treasury Guidance when available and help municipalities make best use of funds.
4. SSMMA is registering with Cook County for a vaccine clinic in our area; Matteson opened a site in the former Target; Walgreens clinic on hold due to Johnson & Johnson vaccine pause.

C. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Mayor Einhorn and Leslie Phemister reported on the following topics:

1. The last Transportation Committee meeting discussed how to assign points that we have available for projects. Harvey/Posen/Dixmoor-Dixie Hwy. received the most at 5 points; Calumet Park-Ashland Ave. got 4 points; Calumet City/Dolton/Burnham-State St. got 3

points; Steger-Steger Rd. got 2 points; Richton Park to Lynwood-Sauk Trail got 1 point. CMAP will receive the points and add them to their tally for projects. This will help with projects competing for the Shared Fund of \$30 million, meant for bigger regional projects.

2. SSMMA is continuing to update the Capitol Bill sheet, please send information to Leslie.
3. There may be a large federal stimulus bill coming pushing STP funds in TIF locations. There will be another STP local call for projects in 2022. Stay tuned.

D. HOUSING COLLABORATIVE

Sarah Kobetis reported on the following topics:

1. Karl Bradley from the Cook County Department of Planning and Development joined the committee meeting to discuss 3 senior housing projects currently in progress: Lansing, Richton Park and Harvey. Cook County has closed their Rental Relief program but the state is creating one for renters and property owners opening in May. The program will give back-rent and up to 3 months' rent if you show COVID impact.
2. Please join us or send a proxy for the next Housing Committee meeting on June 10 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom.

E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/CSEDC

Reggie Greenwood reported on the following topics:

1. CSEDC is in the process of promoting the jobs available at Amazon: University Park will be opening in May, Country Club Hills in June, Matteson and Markham in October. They are working to maximize the number of jobs and training in the Southland.
2. The development community is still healthy and are looking for sites for major developments all over the region.
3. Speaker Welch has asked Representative Davis to be the point person on the South Suburban Airport. Rep. Davis has met with Governor Pritzker and Senator Durbin's office several times already on the topic and it seems to be gaining traction. There is a meeting with CMAP scheduled to discuss the study done on truck traffic and cargo coming from Rockford to Amazon. A discussion followed.
4. The e-commerce site in Matteson is looking great and may be able to be duplicated, contact Reggie for a tour or more information.

F. SOUTH SUBURBAN ECONOMIC GROWTH INITIATIVE

No report.

6. REGIONAL AGENCY REPORTS

None

7. OTHER

Mayor Braun reported that Homewood Flossmoor High School's Superintendent and others are discussing a career training center for the area. Mayor Reinbold has had meetings on the topic as well. They will share the letter, they are looking for mayoral support.

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 7:07 p.m.