SSMMA BUSINESS MEETING
OCTOBER 19, 2023 - ZOOM
MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Gardiner called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:02 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and sign in/introductions in the chat box.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Gardiner asked for a motion to approve the September 28, 2023, meeting minutes. Mayor Ryan moved to approve the Minutes and it was seconded by Manager Sawyer, motion was approved.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Gardiner reported that SSMMA is working to set up in-district meetings with our Southland Legislators to discuss Veto Session priorities. It is important that mayors representing communities are available to speak about their important issues.

B. Gardiner asked for a motion to approve the 2024 Meeting Calendar. Mayor Reinbold moved to approve the Calendar and it was seconded by Mayor Einhorn, motion was approved.

C. Gardiner told attendees to save the date for SSMMA's Annual Jingle & Mingle Holiday Dinner. The event will be held on Thursday, December 7th at the Dream Palace in Lynwood. Thank you Mayor Curry for hosting.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Director DeLaurentiis introduced Jason Applegate and Vanessa Mendoza from the Cook County Department of Public Health. They discussed lead poisoning prevention, highlighting the harmful effects of lead, a neurotoxin commonly found in paint, and the risk it poses to children under six and pregnant women. The Cook County Health Atlas was highlighted as a tool that provides health indicators and allows users to look at their own municipality's data. The legal obligation and health risks associated with lead paint were emphasized, particularly in homes built before 1978. Free services provided by the Health Department, including lead inspections and remediation, were also encouraged. Click here for more information.
B. DeLaurentiis reported on the US EPA/IEPA/Cook County Water Infrastructure Workshop to be held at SSMMA on November 7 from 10 a.m. – noon.
C. SSMMA is hiring an Environmental Justice Policy & Legislative Affairs Specialist. 30 of 45 SSMMA communities qualify as federally recognized environmental justice communities.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Mayor Reinbold reported on the following topics:

1. Concerns continue with HB 2507, which could lead to reduced property tax bills for for-profit nursing home owners. This would shift the burden to homeowners and businesses in the communities. Each municipality should be contacting their legislators by Oct 23rd to let them know that our communities and taxpayers cannot "absorb" the loss of nursing home EAV as it would immediately drive tax bills higher for homeowners and business owners and lead to greater residential abandonment and loss of business in already struggling areas.
2. Paid Leave for All -(Public Act 102-1143), which was signed into law on March 13, creates a number of unintended consequences for local governments. The Act has an effective date of January 1, 2024. SSMMA, along with a coalition of COGs and the IML are working to have the GA amend the law to exempt additional public bodies to ensure compatibility with safe and efficient local government operations. Please contact your legislator to flag this issue

and ask them to exempt local municipalities from the law.

3. The House has had several Subject Matter Hearings that have proponents for Tier II benefit improvements lining up trying to return them to Tier I level. Watch for action alerts about this as discussions heat up in Springfield. SSMMA and other COGs will be working in a coalition to oppose costly and unsustainable pension expansion proposals that establish Tier I like benefits.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mayor Agpawa reported on the following topics:

1. The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Monday, November 6th from 8:30-10am at SSMMA offices, plan to attend to help us identify public safety priorities for SSMMA communities in 2024.

C. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Mayor Einhorn and Leslie Phemister reported on the following topics:

1. STP-Local CFP is open through December 12. All projects on the contingency list must reapply, get updated 2024 prices.
2. CMAP's PART was approved by the MPO Policy Committee and Board and will go to the GA on January 1. Resolution: *Now, therefore be it resolved that as required by the Act, the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee hereby authorize submission of the Plan of Action for Regional Transit to the Governor and General Assembly for their consideration of the ~~recommendations~~ options contained therein by January 1, 2024.*
3. SSMMA has issued an RFQ for the Tri-Cal, an Illinois SPR (Statewide Planning and Research) grant, for Torrence and Rt. 6 (159th St) in Calumet City, Lansing, and South Holland. This RFQ was delivered to over 25 firms. An info session for interested firms will be held on October 26th with a team being selected by December 1, 2023.
4. Grants:
   - Illinois Special Bridge Program – Closes October 31st
   - Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator – replace existing chargers – closes November 13th.
   - Thriving Communities Program (TCO): Letter of Interest – provide support to communities lacking staff or technical expertise – letters due November 15th
   - Bridge Investment Program, Large Bridge Project Grants –Minimum award: $50 Million
     - November 27, 2023, for consideration of FYs 2023 and 2024 funds.
     - August 1, 2024, for consideration of FY 2025 funds.
     - August 1, 2025, for consideration of FY 2026 funds
5. The next committee meeting will be held on November 7 at 2:00 p.m. at the South Chicago Heights Village Hall.

D. HOUSING COLLABORATIVE

Mayor Curry reported on the following topics:

1. In lieu of the November 9 meeting, register for the IL Association of Realtors/SSMMA Build a Better Block workshop breakfast at Idlewild Country Club at 9 a.m.
2. The next committee meeting will be held on February 8 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom.

E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/CSEDC

Reggie Greenwood was unavailable, Director DeLaurentiis reported on the following topics:

1. CSEDC hosted a luncheon at Bellagio's where the Silver Shovel Awards were given to

developers and investors in the South suburban region. Joe Schwedeman from DePaul University discussed potential opportunities related to a cargo airport in the South suburban region. Information was also provided about Enterprise Zones.

6. REGIONAL AGENCY REPORTS

Jim Garrett of the Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau (CSCVB) reported on the following topics:

- Occupancies and hotel revenues in September were down.
- CSCVB hosted their annual meeting with over 300 attendees. Governor Pritzker sent a video and mentioned the legislation with the South Suburban Airport. Several awards were given to members.
- Information was given about the events guide, grant workshops available and blood drive.
- The next meeting is October 25 at 4:00 p.m.
- Mayor Eidam wished Jim congratulations and thanks for his duty and honor in being a veteran's guard on the recent Honor Flight that flew to Washington D.C. Mayor Eidam was also on the flight.

7. OTHER

Mayors Nelson and Curry attended the ribbon cutting for the Domestic Violence Survivor Center in Markham Courthouse. There is now a secluded area for victims instead of meeting in the hall. Please spread the word.

Mayor Einhorn discussed the loss of Fire Chief James Muirhead this month. Thank you to all those who stepped in to help. More information can be found here.

District Director Jeremy Young with Commissioner Miller's Office reported on the following topics:

- There are several upcoming events including a vaccine clinic and blood drive.
- The office is working on creating IMPACT to create a bridge and connect organizations with police chiefs and mayors.

8. ADJOURMENT

Gardiner asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Mayor Curry and seconded by Mayor Wells; the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.