

*Illinois Main Street Council
Minutes of the June 17, 2004 Meeting*

Call to Order: Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, Chair, called the 18th meeting of the Council to order at 8:55 a.m. in his Springfield office.

Roll Call: Per roll call taken by Wendy Bell, members present were: Director Maynard Crossland and Carolyn Oxtoby, Brenda Jacob for Marc Gordon in Springfield, Mary Blankenbaker and Mayor Sue Klinkhamer via conference call.

Other attendees: Wendy Bell, IMS Coordinator, Les Cavada, IMS Staff, Mike Jackson, IHPA Chief Architect, Darius Bryjka, IMS Architect and Ryan Mouw and Dan Persky (LTG/IMS Staff) via Conference call.

Those absent: Jim Baum

Call to Order and Opening Remarks:

Lt. Governor Quinn asked for a motion on the minutes of the March 25, 2004 meeting. Director Crossland made the motion to accept the minutes as written, Mayor Klinkhamer seconded the motion and approval was made by acclamation.

Review & Progress Report Report:

Lt. Governor Quinn asked Wendy to report on the program's recent progress. Bell noted we had contracted with the National Main Street Center to complete 34 Annual Program Reviews for our communities. The majority of those have been completed; all will be completed by mid-July.

Four regional Board Trainings have been held around the State as well as the quarterly New Manager Training Day in Springfield.

Our inaugural "Main Street Day at the State Capitol" was highly successful, with community displays filling the halls, a rally led by Lieutenant Governor Quinn in the Rotunda, entertainment and a group photo on the steps. That evening we partnered with Downtown Springfield, Inc. on their Upper Story Tour and a reception at the Arts Centre. Many managers reported this was a great event and many positive contacts with their legislators.

Wendy Bell and Les Cavada as well as more than 30 other Illinois Main Street representatives attended the National Main Street Conference in Albuquerque. Several were speakers. An exciting state dinner was coordinated and enjoyed by all. One registration per community was offered by the Lieutenant Governor's office. Bell reported on the Coordinator's meeting held at the same time, passing out an updated list of information from programs around the country. She also informed the Council that Illinois had declined the secondary offer to host the National Conference in 2006, but let the National Main Street Center know that we were interested in 2007.

An Application Workshop for any community interested in applying to be an Associate Community was held in Springfield. Fourteen towns attended. The tiered system, benefits, requirements and application process were explained. Applications are due September 10th. Bell noted that some people had indicated they were interested but could not attend that day. She has discussed with Sheri Stuart of the National Main Street Center about assisting with a second Application Workshop when she is in Illinois for Basic Training. Lieutenant Governor Quinn suggested we proceed with this.

Bell reported on special assistance given to Utica due to the tornado that devastated the area. Thanks to W.W. Grainger's "Grainger Rebuilding America Foundation", Illinois Main Street is administering Disaster Assistance grants totaling \$50,000. In addition, we are applying for a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to bring in a speaker versed in disaster recovery to do a workshop for the businesses.

Illinois Main Street also granted to many communities, funds for Farmer's Markets and Websites or Website improvements. Website grants were \$500 each and the Farmer's Market grants were \$500 to \$1,000 depending on their needs. The response from the communities has been very positive.

Design Services:

Mike Jackson reported that Darius Bryjka has completed an additional 8 projects.

Thanks to some short term funding from the Lieutenant Governor's office, Illinois Main Street architects have been working on two Upper Story Development Feasibility studies. Quinn asked about other communities that may wish to have this service. Jackson said four were discussed initially and all four would have liked to have had the study. Oxtoby asked if cost estimations were included in this service. Jackson confirmed this as well as building code information.

The Lieutenant Governor asked about the current design requests. Bryjka reported there are currently about 20 designs in the basket to be completed and more have been visited and are awaiting building owner follow-up. The number is growing as this is a prime building season. Bryjka reported on several of the designs, including the Jacksonville Labor Temple, which we will visit later today; and the Visitor Center at Dixon.

Quinn asked Jackson to expound on the Labor Temple. Jackson explained how the building had gone through multiple ownerships and deteriorated and almost met the wrecking ball. The AFL-CIO has now taken the building and is volunteering labor to restore it. Long range plans are to make the building into a Labor Museum and Community Center. Quinn noted that Jacksonville has suffered a major layoff lately and feels this is a great project. Consequently, we are granting \$10,000 to Jacksonville Main Street later today that will be passed on to assist in the restoration.

Overview of Upcoming Plans

The Summer Manager's Meeting will be June 23rd in Galena, followed by the Tri-State Conference on the 24th and 25th with Wisconsin and Iowa hosted by Illinois. The theme of the conference will be "Speaking Up for Main Street" and most of the activities will be held at the DeSoto House. Conference events include an Opening Reception at the Galena/JoDaviess County History Museum, a keynote by Steve Siemens of People Builders, break out sessions and a group dinner. The Federal Home Loan Bank is giving a sponsorship, keeping the registration cost to \$70. Currently 75 have registered but the deadline is not for several days.

Lieutenant Governor Quinn welcomed Les Cavada to the Illinois Main Street staff, and asked him about one of the Tri-State session topics, "Partnering for Development Success" he is to speak on. Cavada explained about how to work with other Illinois Main Street communities when local businesses wanted to expand.

Lieutenant Governor Quinn also introduced Ryan Mouw in Chicago.

Quinn asked Bell to explain the staffing assignments. She passed out a current listing noting that some staff would be handling specific duties. Cavada will work in the Economic Restructuring area, track economic statistics and assist with Annual Program Reviews. Mouw will learn the Promotions area and has recently taken the information from our Monthly Reports and put it into a Calendar of Events for our website. He'll also focus on some tourism strategies and events. Persky will work on some special projects as he has in the past such as energy issues and advocacy training. A dedicated intern will assist with some clean-up work, such as changing over our handouts from Kustra letterhead, filing and putting away the information brought over from DCEO, and assisting with Conference planning. Wendy will continue her Coordinator responsibilities and handle the Organization Committee points. Some other staff members in the Lieutenant Governor's office will assist with some projects such as Rishi Garge on housing, Marc Miller on Rivers, and Carolyn Brown-Hodge on rural concerns.

Other Business

Darius has completed a unique project. He wrote an article in Polish about Illinois Main Street that has been published in a Chicago Polish newspaper. Bell will submit it to the Main Street News, and if included, it will go out all over the nation.

Director Crossland noted the funds included in the state budget for IMS architectural services. Although the state budget has not been approved as yet, he reported that they would move forward on hiring as soon as possible.

Date for Next Quarterly Meeting

Date for the next meeting was set for September 28th.

Adjournment

Lt. Governor Quinn called for a motion for adjournment. Made by Carolyn Oxtoby, seconded by Brenda Jacob. Meeting Adjourned at 9:40..