

*Illinois Main Street Council  
Minutes of the September 28, 2004 Meeting*

**Call to Order:** Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, Chair, called the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference room of his Chicago office.

**Roll Call:** Per roll call taken by Wendy Bell, members present were: Marc Gordon, Mary Blankenbaker, Mayor Sue Klinkhamer, Jim Baum, Mark Harris for Director Lavin, and Carolyn Oxtoby via conference call.

Other attendees: Wendy Bell, IMS Coordinator, Les Cavada, IMS Staff, Mike Jackson, IHPA Chief Architect, Ryan Mouw and Dan Persky, LTG/IMS Staff.

Those not represented: none

**Call to Order and Opening Remarks:**

Lt. Governor Quinn asked for a motion on the minutes of the June 17, 2004 meeting. Mary Blankenbaker made the motion to accept the minutes as written, Marc Gordon 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 reviewed a busy schedule.

Illinois hosted the Tri-State Conference with 179 participants in Galena in June. The Summer Manager's Meeting was held the day prior.

The first Basic Training session in two years was held in Bloomington. The two-day training included half-day sessions on each of the four comprehensive points. Lieutenant Governor Quinn pointed out that when threatened by a tornado, the training was moved to the kitchen and continued. Since staff were present from the National Main Street Center to assist, an additional Informational Workshop was held on the following day. The majority of those who attended represented other agencies or groups that wanted to learn about Main Street, rather than towns wanting to start a program.

The first Saturday of the State Fair was "Main Street Day", featuring success stories in the Lieutenant Governor's Tent.

Assessment Visits for 5 towns considering Associate status were completed.

Les Cavada visited Danville, Paris and Marshall for their Annual Program Reviews. Quinn asked Cavada how the towns were doing. He noted that in general they are doing well, and they really appreciated the Reviews.

106 Communities included on our "Interested List" have been sent information concerning the Illinois Main Street program. Of these, four have returned Introductory Applications: Chicago Heights, Peoria, DesPlaines, Orland Park. Bell provided the Council with a complete list of the Interested Communities.

Last Friday Lieutenant Governor Quinn made the Chicago to Springfield Route 66/America's Main Street Tour. Activities and press events were held in each Main Street community along the way, and several additional stops were made. Ryan Mouw expounded on the event, the cars and drivers, and communities. Lieutenant Governor Quinn noted we should plan to do this on an annual basis.

Bell also provided the Council with a calendar of upcoming activities and briefly pointed out the upcoming goals for the program, including:

- ◆ Visits to West Central Illinois Towns
- ◆ Remainder of Annual Program Reviews – (15 locations)
- ◆ Assist Bloomington and Momence to complete designation requirements
- ◆ Organizational Visits to New Towns
- ◆ Letters of Agreement Out
- ◆ Calendar for Next Year’s Activities
- ◆ Ryan shadow Managers

**Design Services:**

Mike Jackson reported that contracts for the two designers, Darius Bryjka and Anna Margaret Borntrager were currently at the Governor’s office, and we hope they are completed soon.

During the months of July, August and September, a total of ten schematic designs were completed for the following towns:

- Dixon (2)
- Danville (2)
- Paris (2)
- Springfield
- Marshall
- Collinsville

An urban-infill design is being completed for Rock Island that includes retail on the first floor and living quarters on the second.

During the summer, IHPA/IMS hosted a summer intern from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and one intern from Darnstadt University of Technology in Darnstadt, Germany.

**Overview of Upcoming Conference**

Bell passed out an Agenda for the Upcoming Conference, which will be held October 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> in Dixon. Registrations are coming in but are not due for two more days. Based on past practice, the majority will be received in the next 48 hours. Thanks to several sponsorships from the community, the registration fee is \$75, a reduction of \$40 over last year. Funding for speakers is coming from the Main Street 023 Fund at DCEO – thanks to Mark Harris for taking care of the arrangements. All sessions will be held at the Loveland Center, except for the Opening Session which will be in the Theatre. The Opening Reception will be at the “Last Picture Show”, an award winner this year. Shh – it’s a secret. The Awards Banquet will be at the Post House, with Lieutenant Governor Quinn in attendance. Nominations were up this year; 32 winners will be named in 27 categories

**Review of Community Applications**

Lieutenant Governor Quinn asked Bell to review the applications for the Associate Status. There were three: Hardin County, Lombard and Mount Vernon. Bell noted that each one was very unique from each other. Hardin County would be our first ever county-wide program, Lombard is facing huge population increases and commercial expansion, and Mount Vernon has suffered some building loss due to fire and sits at the intersection of 2 main interstates. Bell provided additional details to the Council and Lieutenant Governor Quinn called for an affirmative vote. Each community was confirmed by acclamation.

**Other Business**

Jim Baum shared that downtown traffic seems to be down in most places, and we should share with our programs that it is not “just them” but is a general trend. He also told the Council of a new publication, “Challenges of the Future – The Rebirth of Small Independent Retail in America” that is available

through the Illinois Retail Merchants Association online. A limited number of bound copies are available, and he will see that they are made available for our communities. Thanks Jim!

**Date for Next Quarterly Meeting**

Date for the next meeting was set for December 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Lt. Governor Quinn called for a motion for adjournment. Made by Mary Blankenbaker, seconded by Carolyn Oxtoby. Meeting Adjourned at 3:40.