



***Illinois Main Street Council
Minutes from December 7th, 2007 Meeting***

Lt. Governor's Office

| | |
|--|--|
| James R. Thompson Center Ste. 15-200 Conference Rm., Chicago, IL 60601 | 414 Stratton Bldg., Conference Room, Springfield, IL 62706 |
|--|--|

I. Call to Order and Opening Remarks:

Wendy Bell, IMS Coordinator, welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefly mentioned that Lt. Governor Quinn was attending a Military Funeral and would be joining the group as soon as he is able to. The meeting was called to order at 2:35pm and Lt. Governor Quinn arrived shortly thereafter.

II. Introduction of Members and Roll Call

Council members present:

Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, Dir. Lavin (by Jason Tyszko), Dir. Coomer, Jim Baum, Mary Blankenbaker, Mark Gordon (by Jennifer Chase), David Bahlman, Carolyn Oxtoby, John Penn, – Quorum was achieved.

Others in attendance included:

Springfield Attendance: Navonna Bunn (ILMS), Darius Bryjka (IHPA), Anthony Rubano (IHPA), Karol Ehmen (Quincy), Anna Margaret Borntrager (IHPA), Carol Dyson (IHPA), Israel Salazar Jr. (ILMS), Dana Whiteman (Vandalia MS), Rudi Hancock (ILMS), Les Cavada (ILMS),

Chicago Attendance: Dan Persky (Lt. Gov.'s Office), Erica Robinson (Princeton), Nick Kalogeresis (National Trust Main Street Center, Chris Morris, (National Trust), Simone McNeil (Lt. Gov.'s Office), Ed Bannon (Six Corners), Mike Jackson (IHPA), Sean Vinck (Lt. Gov.'s Office), Kerry Lofton (Lt. Gov.'s Office), Wendy Bell (ILMS)

Jim Baum, Jennifer Chase (for Marc Gordon) Tasha Green, and Carolyn Oxtoby were notified that they must complete the State-required ethics training.

III. Approval of Minutes from Sept. 19th, 2007

A motion to approve the minutes from Sept. 19th was made by David Bahlman. The motion to approve was seconded by Mary Blankenbaker. With no discussion, the minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Progress Report since last Advisory Council Meeting & Program Update –
Wendy Bell, Illinois Main Street, Office of the Lt. Gov.

Services & Activities

- Tri State Conference, Platteville WI: This conference included a number of Main Street representatives from Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin. Illinois had a number of Executive Directors participate by making educational presentations to the attendees. From Illinois, a total of 58 Directors & Volunteers attended this conference.
- Portrait Of a Solider exhibit to Danville and Lincoln: The exhibit travels, allowing communities across the state to experience the artwork and honor the memory of Illinois' fallen soldiers. Many communities have expressed a desire to host the exhibit after viewing its impact upon the Danville Community during the Illinois Main Street State Conference.
- ILMS has completed another round of training via videoconference. This training was offered to each of the four committees as well as the communities' Board of Directors. The last round of training had a total of 76 registrants bringing the year-in total to around 325 individuals who have received training via videoconference.
- We have updated "Word on the Street", our electronic newsletter. Israel Salazar, Gil Jimenez and Elizabeth Austin will be working on the content. If there are any ideas or suggestions, please contact Israel Salazar.
- A Designation Ceremony was held for Rockford in November. We have one more Designation; Benton will be honored next.
- Illinois Main Street helped facilitate the Lincoln Bicentennial Heritage Events Workshop for the Illinois Museums Conference. This was a workshop that had been done previously by the National Trust Heritage Tourism Program. The first event was sold out (at 108 participants) and due to its success, a second "mini-workshop" was held at the IL Museum Conference.
- Kerry Lofton (from our Chicago office) attended the Illinois Municipal League Conference and made contact with 26 potential Main Street Communities. These communities will be contacted with more information within the coming month.
- ILMS has also participated in the Main Street Webinar that was hosted by the National Trust's Main Street Center. The goal of the workshop was to help determine "where do we go for the next 25 years". (See packet for more information on the Webinar's key elements). It is important to understand where the National Program is going so that we will know where we will be going as a state program". The National Trust has formed a special task force to evaluate and carryout their plans in achieving their goals.
- We have sent out request for proposals to all the communities for next year's workshops. Additionally, thanks to several ILMS Staff members, the Letter of

Agreement, Support Survey and Salary Survey have all been updated. We will be transitioning from a traditional year to a calendar year. Thus, the new documents will go out on an annual basis on a calendar year.

- Additional support was provided to Quincy, Champaign and Taylorville to address specific issues that each respective program was encountering.
- Volunteer Committees for the 2009 National Conference have been established. There are a total of eight different categories ranging from topics concerning the Trade Show Booth to Sponsorship and Fundraising. ILMS would like to have at least one Advisory Board Member on each of these committees. Please contact Wendy Bell for more Information.
- State Conference Wrap-up:
There were a total of 256 people registered for the State Conference, making this the second most attended State Conference in ILMS history. Additionally, there was a total of 16 cash or in-kind sponsors, 11 exhibitors.

(For more information about the events/workshops that took place, Please contact ILMS)

Overall, there were a lot of positive comments about the speakers found within the session evaluations. This Conference had a lot of moving parts and timing was a key element in keeping everything on track.

Wendy Bell offered her thanks to the ILMS and IHPA staff members for all their hard work in conducting the Conference.

- Other Updates:
Wendy and Les will be conducting an educational session at the National Conference in Philadelphia (March 30th thru April 2nd, 2008). This session will be entitled “Creating Artistic Entrepreneurship: a Catalyst for Economic Growth”.

Wendy has made the group aware of the “Holiday Shopping Pledge”. It asks participants to promise to purchase at least one holiday gift from a “mom & pop” shop. For more information on this, please Contact Wendy Bell.

- Plans for 2008 (preliminary list)
Illinois Main Street Day at the Capitol has been planned for the 21st or 26th of February, 2008 in Springfield. Lt. Governor Quinn has suggested that everyone do some serious lobbying during this event to ensure that Main Street is well known and understood among the Illinois Legislators. Additionally, a Director’s Workshop will be conducted during this event.

Other events to be conducted include:
Video Conference in March & October,
National Main Street Conference in Philadelphia (March 30th – April 2, 2008)

“Nothing But Net” Director’s Workshop
On-Site Core Training in New Associate towns
Application Workshops
Illinois State Fair (August ’08)
Board Officer’s Retreat (Sept. 2008)
Illinois Municipal League (Sept. 2008)
National Trust Annual Conference in Tulsa Oklahoma (Oct. ’08)
State Conference (Nov. ’08)
Program Reviews, Designation Ceremonies and other Assessments
(ongoing)

V. Design Services Discussion and Report –

Mike Jackson, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

The education and training component of the Main Street Design Service is very important to IHPA’s mission. IHPA takes the design training beyond just doing the design and works with the committees’ committees on the local level and brings in other topics important to historical preservation. Beyond the local element, Anthony Rubano and Mike Jackson were at the National Trust Meeting as speakers last quarter. Next year’s National Trust Meeting, Mike Jackson and Carol Dyson will host a session concerning the “greening of preservation”

“The greenest building is the one that already exists”

IHPA has received an award from the National Trust for Upstairs Downtown. This program started with a grant from the Lt. Governor’s office that allowed IHPA to hire Anna Margaret. IHPA will be taking the program to Michigan in the spring for a one-day workshop. This program has been recognized nationally.

American Institute of Architects has created a ranked list of 150 great places to visit in honor of their 150th anniversary. As a collective, Illinois Main Street has been listed as one of the 150 locations. Lt. Governor Quinn has received an award for this designation.

Carol Dyson has been working on the “Build your own Main Street” project. So far, there are a total of 10 “Build your own Main Streets” are available. Buildings are from Premier Communities and are looking to involve historic Lincoln sites.

Downtown Monticello has been placed on the National Registry. IHPA is Meeting with Six Corners and Berwyn for a similar possibility. Currently, there are about 9 to 11 main street downtowns that have been placed on the Registry.

Currently, the funding issue for IHPA staff has not been remedied. In the past, this amount was set at \$204,000/yr. This amount has been included in IHPA’s budget request; however, it will have to be approved by the General Assembly for 2009 as well as signed by the Governor. Lt. Governor Quinn mentioned that it is “very important to our program and we will need to lobby for this amount (or more).”

Director Coomer stated, “The budget needs to be sustained at its current amount.” He believes that the Legislators are on board; however, last year, it just didn’t get past the veto session. Lt. Governor Quinn affirmed his belief that the design services are important and have an economic impact on the communities.

Issue of Main Street Assessment:

The assessment is an operational tool that would help guide or program. Last year, IHPA had money; this year they don’t. The assessment also has political value. It can help tell the story of how Main Street is succeeding. There would also be inspirational impacts from conducting the assessment. We want some signals as to how our services are valued and recognized.

Lt. Governor Quinn – “after 5 years, having an assessment is an excellent idea. Dan Persky will work with Wendy Bell and IHPA to push this possibility forward. I think that we have done an excellent job growing our Main Street and expanding it. Now, we want to explore the concept of wireless downtowns vigorously.”

Jason Tyszko – DCEO was initially going to make a matching contribution to IHPA’s funds for the national assessment (through the Bureau of Tourism). However, given DCEO’s current budget, they are overextended. Therefore, it needs to be clear of what is being asked from DCEO. The financial situation has changed. Secondly, in terms of wireless, DCEO is currently moving to find a strategy to expand the High Speed Internet Services and Information Technology Act (SB766). The money that was appropriated is tied up because the rules that were created were done so in accordance to an older program that no longer exists. The current rules allow the funds to be used for infrastructure while the new public act would create the availability of these funds based on demand rather than on supply. Once the funds are available a statewide plan will be implemented to help expand connectivity to communities that are currently not covered by a broadband service. The funds could be flexible enough to create more grants for WiFi communities.

Wendy – Currently, there are 4 wireless communities in Main Street. Karol Ehmen of Quincy has two areas that have access and has been online for nearly 2 years. Quincy residents and tourists frequently use the networks

Lt. Governor Quinn mentioned that currently, Marshall, Macomb, & Jacksonville have pending applications with his office for a WiFi grant.

Karol Ehmen – With out the grant issued by the Lt. Governor’s office, the progress made by Quincy to create the wireless networks may not have taken place.

Nick Kalogeresis. (from the National Trust Main Street Center)– The National Trust has recently carried out an assessment for Michigan and New Mexico. He has furnished the Board with a sample report from an assessment completed in Indiana. There is a newly revised proposal for the assessment. The revised timeline is for a 4-day assessment during which the National Trust would meet with all Illinois Main Street Staff as well as the communities to determine what is needed and what is working. The assessment will then issue a final report (50-60 pages) summarizing

the results of the assessment and statewide survey. Additionally, the amount has increased by around \$500 to a total of approximately, \$21,000.

Lt. Governor Quinn expressed his concerns for acquiring the funds for the assessment. Everyone is concerned about the State budget for the second and third quarters of the current fiscal year. Additionally, IHPA has no or limited availability of funds. Jason (DCEO) added that the Bureau of tourism may no longer have the funds available; besides, their funds were only to be used as a match against IHPA's contribution. Both Jason and Director Coomer agreed to explore their respective agencies for any additional funds.

Nick Kalogeresis & Chris Morris gave a brief review of National Trust Main Street Center and their services. For more information on this, please contact the National Trust Main Street Center.

David Bahlman had to excuse himself from the meeting due to other obligations @ 3:55pm

VI. Votes and actions concerning local programs

There is an Introductory Community Application pending from Round Lake. Jim Baum made a motion to accept the community. Mary Blankenbaker seconded the motion. With no further discussion, Round Lake's application was unanimously approved.

VII. Other business

Lt. Governor Quinn asked about the current situation of hotel funding across the state. It was mentioned that there are funds available for the creation of scenic by-ways and these programs could be beneficial to various Main Street Communities and tie into tourism.

Jason Tyszko stated that he would like to collaborate with some of DCEO's bureaus to attend an Executive Director's Training workshop and give a presentation on possible funding sources and grant programs available to the communities.

VIII. Set date for next quarterly meeting

Lt. Governor Quinn decided to leave the exact date for the next meeting open; however, it was stated that it should occur sometime in March and the entire group will be notified when a firm date is set.

IX. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Director Bob Coomer and was seconded by Jim Baum. With not objection, the meeting was adjourned at 4:01pm.