



***Illinois Main Street Council  
Minutes from September 19th, 2007 Meeting***

**Lt. Governor's Office**

James R. Thompson Center	414 Stratton Bldg.,
Ste. 15-200 Conference Rm.,	Conference Room,
Chicago, IL 60601	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 would be joining the group as soon as he is able to. The meeting was called to order at 2:32pm

**II. Introduction of Members and Roll Call**

Council members present: Teresa Zyung representing Dir. Lavin, Dir. Coomer, Mary Blankenbaker, Tasha Green, Jennifer Chase representing Marc Gordon, Carolyn Oxtoby, and David Bahlman. – Quorum was met. Lt. Governor Quinn joined the meeting shortly after roll call.

Others in attendance included: Wendy Bell (ILMS), Simone McNeil (Lt. Gov.'s Office), Mike Jackson (IHPA), Chris Morris (National Trust), Les Cavada (ILMS), Navonna Bunn (ILMS), Anthony Rubano (IHPA), Darius Bryjka (IHPA), Anna Margaret Bortrager (IHPA), Carol Dyson, Diana Kenney (Crystal Lake), Judy Tighe (Jacksonville), Leigh Ann Mathews (Pekin), Daylyn Wells (Decatur), Karol Ehmen (Quincy), (IHPA), Beth Gelman (Lombard),

**III. Approval of Minutes**

It was mentioned that the reports from IHPA and ILMS, along with the minutes, be posted online. There was a brief discussion as to the format of the minutes and all agreed that the format was acceptable. The new format follows the agenda closely and attempts to summarize the major issues discussed as completely as possible.

Mary Blankenbaker made a motion to accept the minutes as written as well as to add the reports to the online posting. Tasha Green seconded the motion and it was passed with no opposition.

**IV. Design Services Discussion and Report – Mike Jackson, (IHPA)**

Mike Jackson presented the Council with his Quarterly Report for the time period of June through August 2007. It was indicated that: a total of 15 design service

renderings had been completed/ revised and 17 individual site inspections in 6 different communities had been fulfilled. Mr. Jackson's report also states that they participated in Main Street Assessment visits for the communities of Woodstock, Hoopston and Canton. Additionally, IHPA has provided training/outreach sessions. For more information, please see Mr. Jackson's Quarterly Report for June-August 2007.

Lt. Governor Quinn briefly discussed the issue of design service funding for Illinois Main Street. After a discussion on current State Budget issues and possible Veto override votes by the Illinois General Assembly, it was evident that support would have to be found from State Representatives and Senators alike. Lt. Governor pledged his support to help find a solution to this issue. Elizabeth Norden will serve as a liaison to the group regarding legislative developments relating to this issue.

**V. Progress Report since last Advisory Council Meeting & Program Update**  
– Wendy Bell, *ILMS, Office of Lt. Governor*

Wendy Bell presented the Council with her Quarterly Report detailing all of Illinois Main Street's activities since the last meeting held in June. She discussed the roles that additional staff members (Israel Salazar Jr., Rudi Hancock, Dan Persky, and Kerry Lofton) would be undertaking within Illinois Main Street. Additionally, key dates were outlined for the year of 2008.

Mrs. Bell stated that there were a total of 69 attendees at the recent Core Training event. Additionally, a total of 108 people attended the Bicentennial Workshop and because of its success, a follow-up (and shorter) version will be held on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Other services held during this Quarter included Program Reviews, Special Assistance to troubled towns and Assessment Visits. Furthermore, New Executive Director Training was conducted for the communities of Carbondale, Mendota, Sterling, Beardstown, Plainfield, Golconda and Marengo. Other training and conferences discussed included the 2007 Annual State Conference and the Tri-State conference held in Platteville Wisconsin in September 2007.

Stats: June-August

30 New or expanded businesses, creating 125 new jobs

\$375,314 reinvested in downtown via building projects

22,601 volunteer hours worth \$440,719.50

A Rural community Development Grant has been applied for and if successful, could assist many communities in Illinois Main Street. Any news on this application will be transmitted to the group.

For more information, please see Mrs. Bell's Quarterly Report.

**VI. Votes and actions concerning local programs:**

Belvidere Main Street has submitted notice of their intent to dissolve at the end of August. They have run into financial difficulties and have been unable to regain key sponsorships. Therefore, they feel it would be best for them to discontinue

their Main Street status and join other civic organizations for the continued growth and prosperity of their community.

The community of Canton was nominated to become a new Associate Main Street Community by Mary Blankenbaker. The nomination was seconded by David Bahlman and with no discussion, was accepted unanimously by the Council.

The community of Hoopeston was nominated to become a new Associated Main Street Community by Mary Blankenbaker. The nomination was seconded by Tasha Green and with no discussion, was accepted unanimously by the Council.

The community of Woodstock was nominated to become a new Associated Main Street Community by David Bahlman. The nomination was seconded by Mary Blankenbaker and with no discussion, was accepted unanimously by the Council.

Mary Blankenbaker nominated the community of Decatur as a Designated community. The nomination was seconded by David Bahlman and was subsequently accepted by the Council.

#### **VII. Other Business**

Tasha R. Green – High Jump – For more than 18 years, High Jump has provided innovative support to help students achieve their full academic and leadership potential. High Jump has made it possible for over 600 deserving young students to be prepared for, and to succeed in, some of the most challenging college preparatory high school's in the country. Selected students participate in a rigorous two-and one-half year course of study on Saturdays and daily during summer sessions. High Jump helps students build academic and social skills, foster self-confidence and independent thinking and gain critical information about future educational choices. High Jump is a tuition-free program. For more information please visit: [www.highjumpchicago.org](http://www.highjumpchicago.org).

#### **VIII. Set Date for Next Quarterly Meeting**

The next meeting will be scheduled for sometime during the first two weeks of December. Due to complicated scheduling issues, a more finalized date could not be determined at this point in time. Everyone will be notified when a firm date is set.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was motioned to adjourn by Mary Blankenbaker. After several concurrences, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50pm.