



MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF METRO ST. LOUIS

LINKING LOCAL COMMUNITIES
STRENGTHENING LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

MEETING NOTICE

DATE: April 18, 2019

TO: Mayors, Board Chairmen & Chief Administrative Officers

FROM: Pat Kelly, Executive Director

RE: Membership Meeting, 7:15 pm, Thursday, April 25, 2019
Black Jack City Hall

The next League meeting will be held at Black Jack City Hall, 12500 Old Jamestown Road, Black Jack, MO 63033. Refreshments will be served at 6:30 pm. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:15.

The main agenda item will be the election of officers and board members for the 2019-20 year. The Nominating Committee Report is attached.

Program: Since 2004, Jennifer Vuitel of the East-West Gateway Council of Governments (EWG) has worked with the city of St. Louis and the Missouri counties of St. Charles, Franklin, Jefferson, and St. Louis to create, revise, and update the St. Louis Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Hazard mitigation activities are actions that can be taken to protect people and property from natural hazards such as floods, severe storms, and extreme temperatures. The Plan is updated every five years, and EWG is currently seeking input on the 2020-2025 Plan. The goal of the planning process is to identify the key actions and opportunities for each jurisdiction, but implementation of the plan is voluntary. The benefit to cities and school districts that adopt the plan is eligibility for hazard mitigation grants that can help pay for flood buyouts, tornado safe rooms, and even generators.

Also enclosed for your review are the Minutes of the March meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Norman McCourt
Mayor
City of Black Jack

Vice President
Ruth Springer
Councilmember
City of Olivette

Finance Chairman
James Knowles, III
Mayor
City of Ferguson

Darlene Bell
Alderwoman
City of Moline Acres

Terry Briggs
Mayor
City of Bridgeton

Errol Bush
Alderman
City of Northwoods

Chuck Caverly
Councilmember
City of Maryland Heights

Scott Douglass
Mayor
City of Clarkson Valley

Barry Glantz
Mayor
City of Creve Coeur

Michelle Harris
Alderwoman
City of Clayton

Rich Magee
Mayor
City of Glendale

Edward Mahan
Mayor
City of Rock Hill

Cindy Pool
Councilmember
City of Ellisville

Michael T. Schneider
Mayor
City of Overland

Thomas P. Schneider
Mayor
City of Florissant

Cara Spencer
Alderwoman
City of St. Louis

Gerry Welch
Mayor
City of Webster Groves

Pat Kelly
Executive Director

MINUTES
MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF METRO ST. LOUIS MEMBERSHIP MEETING
March 28, 2019
Overland Community Center

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Norm McCourt at 7:15 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the February 28, 2019 meeting were approved.

III. REPORT OF THE FINANCE CHAIRMAN

Vice President Ruth Springer gave the monthly Financial Report as follows: Expenditures during the first eight months of the fiscal year, July 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019, totaled \$221,501.26 and were allocated as follows: General Expenses - A. Personnel Expenses \$140,507.50; B. Operating Expenses \$72,992.93; Special Events & Training Academy \$8000.83. The total unexpended General Fund budgeted balance is \$168,178.74 – 43% of the budget with 33% of the fiscal year remaining. General Fund cash and investments as of February 28 totaled \$516,361.50. Expenses from the restricted settlement fund total \$58,257.76. The Settlement fund balance as of February 28 is \$877,154.02.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. President McCourt said that the League's effort to collect signatures for the creation of a Board of Freeholders is progressing well. He asked members to try to collect signatures at the polls during the April 2 elections.
- B. He invited members who may be interested in serving on the League Board to consider sending a letter to the Nominating Committee through the office indicating interest. There will be at least one vacancy on the Board this year.
- C. He reminded the membership that the Annual Muni Awards and Installation would be held on May 23 at the Renaissance Hotel in Berkeley. He encouraged members to submit applications for the Muni Awards.
- D. Lastly, President McCourt wished good luck to all running for re-election.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Mr. Kelly provided an update on legislation related to local government restructuring, disbanding small municipal police departments, and court procedures. He reminded members that weekly legislative updates will continue throughout the session.
- B. He said that the next meeting would held in Black Jack on April 25.

VI. PROGRAM

President McCourt introduced Dr. Terry Jones of UM - St. Louis who had been invited to provide analysis of the Better Together plan. Dr. Jones notes that the St. Louis region does need to continue to improve to compete against metropolitan areas in the US and worldwide. In response to Better Together's references to merged metropolitan areas, he indicates that research shows these mergers have been a mixed bag, at best.

St. Louis County has quality local governments, many with professional managers and involved citizens. He believes that regionalism has been very well received in the City and County with over 40 institutions and agencies that have been created for the provision of services and the welfare of the citizens. These include, among others, MSD, the Zoo-Museum District, and the Junior College District. He suggests that regionalism will be accepted incrementally by local residents.

He believes the Better Together plan would be detrimental to the City and County and is one of the most un-democratic proposals ever created. It was developed with no involvement of local officials or citizens. All constitutions and charters developed in Missouri and the US are citizen driven and require voter approval. The Better Together plan would charge the Mayor of St. Louis and the County Executive with the task of creating the new charter which would be approved unless voted down by 2/3 of the new 33 member metropolitan council. Charter changes would require 2/3 approval by the voters.

The new Metro City would confiscate all local government property except parks. Municipal employees would have no guarantee of future jobs. The municipalities in the County would be termed "municipal districts" and would have little power other than overseeing parks and trash service. The metropolitan council could vote municipal districts out of existence with a majority vote.

Dr. Jones indicated that he is working with other local researchers to complete a financial analysis of the plan, which should be released in the near future. Their initial research shows that the cost savings envisioned by supporters would be insufficient to cover the loss of taxes that are planned (the City earnings tax and 1/2 of the County property tax). The plan also makes no provision for the issuance of debt to finance large capital projects or other needs.

He said that past research shows no correlation between the number of cities and regional success. For example, Pittsburgh has a large number of suburbs and is thriving. He listed three fields that needed to compete on a world scale. These are: education, particularly college graduate; venture capital, which is doing well; and foreign born population who create jobs, where the region is not doing as well.

He suggested a 5-8 year to-do list for the region, which includes the coordination of transportation policy through Bi-State and East-West Gateway; economic development coordination for the entire region, including Southwest Illinois; and the consolidation of public health services.

Following the presentation Dr. Jones answered numerous questions from the membership.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business to discuss.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution Opposing Better Together and Supporting the Creation of a Board of Freeholders - At the February meeting, the membership approved a motion to oppose the Better Together plan and work to create a Board of Freeholders to study local government reorganization in the City and County through a public, open process.

Mr. Kelly noted that Better Together supporters had recently resubmitted their petition so he suggested that the League resolution omit references to the petition number as it was no longer valid.

MOTION by Alderman Errol Bush of Northwoods, seconded by Alderwoman Darlene Bell of Moline Acres, to adopt the resolution as amended. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED ON A VOICE VOTE.

Mayor Jim Paunovich of Calverton Park suggested that members review an article in the current Riverfront Times which points out many problems with the Better Together plan. Mr. Kelly suggested that members check the League website for additional information and news articles regarding Better Together. He also noted that the League has hired additional lobbyists to contact legislators outside St. Louis City and County. Mayor Mike Roemer of Ellisville suggested that groups be formed to present ideas to the Board of Freeholders once it is created.

B. There was no other New Business to consider.

IX. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS - None

IX. INTRODUCTION OF HOST – President McCourt introduced Mayor Mike Schneider who introduced other Overland officials and welcomed the membership.

X. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Attendance Record – Representatives from the following members signed the register:

Bellefontaine Neighbors	Bellerive Acres	Bel-Nor
Black Jack	Breckenridge Hills	Bridgeton
Calverton Park	Chesterfield	Creve Coeur
Ellisville	Ferguson	Florissant
Greendale	Green Park	Kirkwood
Manchester	Moline Acres	Northwoods
Olivette	Overland	Richmond Heights
Rock Hill	St. Ann	St. John
St. Louis	Uplands Park	Wildwood
Winchester	Woodson Terrace	

Also in attendance were representatives from:

Ameren	Beyond Housing	Charles Crane Agency
Charter Communications	Curtis Heinz Garrett & O'Keefe	Daniel & Henry
Linda Goldstein Consulting	MSD	PGAV
Republic Services	St. Louis Association of Realtors	St. Louis Community Credit Union
TMZ Marketing	UM - St. Louis	Wood
Press		

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
ST. LOUIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
April 25, 2019

President (one year term) – Mayor James Knowles, Ferguson

Vice President (one year term) - Councilmember Ruth Springer, Olivette

Finance Chairman (one year term) - Mayor Terry Briggs, Bridgeton

Executive Board (two year terms) – Alderman Errol Bush, Northwoods
Mayor Michelle Harris, Clayton
Councilmember Cindy Pool, Ellisville
Councilmember Tim Woerther, Wildwood

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Executive Board Members with one year remaining on their terms are:
Alderman Darlene Bell, Moline Acres
Mayor Edward Mahan, Rock Hill
Alderman Cara Spencer, St. Louis

Past Presidents that will serve on the Board are:

Councilmember Chuck Caverly, Maryland Heights
Mayor Scott Douglass, Clarkson Valley
Mayor Barry Glantz, Creve Coeur
Mayor Norm McCourt, Black Jack
Mayor Mike Schneider, Overland
Mayor Gerry Welch, Webster Groves

Submitted by the Nominating Committee:

Councilmember Chuck Caverly, Maryland Heights, Chairman
Mayor Barry Glantz, Creve Coeur
Mayor Michele DsShay, Moline Acres
Mayor Mike Schneider, Overland