

Westshore Council of Governments
Regular Meeting
Bay Village City Hall
January 14, 2015

9:40 a.m. - Meeting was called to order

1. Welcome – Mayor Sutherland welcomed the group, noting that this was her third time chairing the COG. She expressed her appreciation to the group stating that it was tremendous working together with the other Mayors and she appreciates the municipal cooperation and collaboration between the cities.
2. Roll Call – In attendance – Mayor Sutherland, Mayor Summers, Mayor Bobst, Mayor Patton, and Mayor Clough

Absent: Mayor Kennedy

Also in attendance: David Greenspan, District 1 County Councilman Gary Ebert, Bay Village Law Director, Jazmyn Stover, SSE & G, We Share Fire Chiefs – Fire Chief Chris Lyons, Bay Village, Fire Chief Jim Hughes, Westlake, Fire Chief Chris Huerner, Avon Lake, Fire Chief Tony Raffin, Fairview Park, newly appointed Fire Chief Aaron Lenart, Rocky River, Marty Mace, Susan Murnane – LWV, Jason Phillips, Clean Fuels Ohio, Scott Sanders and Christina Yoka, Earth Day Coalition

3. Approval of Minutes
A motion to accept the minutes of November 12, 2014 was made by Mayor Summers, second by Mayor Bobst; motion passed. (There was no meeting in December.)
4. Commission Reports
RTA – Mayor Clough was reappointed to Board of the RTA and thanked everyone for their support. Mayor Clough spoke to Joe Calabrese, RTA CEO about the group's concerns regarding bus shelters. Mayor Clough reported that sales tax came in higher in December and the RTA budget looks better going into 2015 than expected. Mayor Sutherland appreciates the quick action taken by Mr. Calabrese to replace several Lake Rd. bus shelters that had been removed due to ridership issues.
5. NOACA
Mayor Sutherland reports that the next meeting of the Board of Directors is January 23rd. Grace Galluci, the Director of NOACA is looking at RFP's for a lobbyist. Mayor Summers noted that Cuyahoga County is 86 out of 88 in terms of the percentage of dollars recouped for license plate fees. It is hoped that a lobbyist could help secure more ODOT dollars for our area.

6. Land Bank

Mayor Kennedy was absent; no report. Mayor Bobst and Mayor Sutherland indicated that they are currently working with the county Land Bank to resolve issues with vacant/abandoned properties in Rocky River and Bay Village

7. County Planning Commission

Mayor Summers will be working with the Commission on issues related to active living. Mayors Bobst and Patton report that the County Planning Commissions has been very helpful in assisting to update their Master Plans. Mayor Sutherland reports that Bay Village will be applying for a grant to update to the Bay Village Master Plan.

8. Cuyahoga County Mayors & Managers Association

Mayor Sutherland reported that HB5 was passed. She also noted that she will be going to Columbus to visit with legislators in March.

Deer – Several local Mayors recently met with ODNR Director Zehringer. This is an on-going discussion with cities and ODNR seeking tools/techniques to manage the deer. The aerial deer population survey planned for the winter months has not been done yet. Mayor Bobst reported that culling is commencing in the Metro Parks.

9. Clean Fuels Ohio - Jason Phillips, Policy Director for Clean Fuels Ohio made a presentation to the group and discussed assisting with feasibility studies if the group is interested. Clean Fuels Ohio is dedicated to promoting the use of cleaner, domestic fuels and efficient vehicles to the transportation industry, government, and the general public. They can assist with feasibility studies and grant administration in order to assist communities wishing to green their fleets. Converting police cars, landscaping/mowing vehicles may be beneficial, but the savings are significant when converting the larger vehicles, such as utility vehicles and large trucks. The Local Government Innovation Fund may be able to help pay for a feasibility study. Mayor Bobst asked Jason to provide a draft proposal of a grant. There are quarterly deadlines for the fund, the next one is March 8th, with another one in June. There is a 10% local match required by the applicant. This topic will be on the agenda at subsequent meetings for further discussion.

10. Old Business

WeShare – Bay Village Fire Chief Lyons and Westlake Fire Chief Hughes provided a brief historical context of the organization, how and why it was developed and where it is today after 40 years of collaboration between the 6 current member cities, with a focus on consistent regional medical controls and protocol. We Share utilizes the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospital systems to update protocols and training 4 times a year.

Mayor Bobst introduced Aaron Lenart who will be taking over as the new Fire Chief in Rocky River.

Mayor Summers reports that Lakewood Fire Department has withdrawn active membership from WeShare and is now partnered with Lakewood Hospital as their protocol director and using SWAT protocols from Metro. He felt they would receive better training and they weren't

getting updated protocols through WeShare. Mayor Patton reported that Fairview Park has also withdrawn active membership from WeShare and has partnered with Fairview Hospital.

Mayors Bobst and Sutherland expressed concern at the cities decision to leave WeShare. They felt this should have been discussed prior to their pulling out and rather than strengthen it, communities are pulling out. COG Mayors need to meet with WeShare chiefs at a later date.

11. New business – Fiscal Officer Renee Mahoney distributed a memo regarding a request for pay raises for WEB agents who have not had an increase in several years. She is requesting approval of a 2% increase. Mayors Bobst and Patton felt they could not approve a higher percentage than was given to their employees. The group took a vote and it was approved by a majority. Bay Village, Westlake, and Lakewood voted “Yes” while Fairview Park and Rocky River voted “No”. Renee will be prepared to discuss the WEB budget at the next meeting.

Mayor Bobst reports that the Local Govt. sub-committee is working on the MARC’s radios and the monthly user fee. They will be increasing to a maximum \$20 fee in July 2015. They are moving ahead looking at innovative ways to expand MARC’s system.

Councilman Greenspan spoke about the county road resurfacing reimbursement program and encouraged all cities to reapply next year. Program CDSG, partner of CDBG program is funded by casino revenue. Projects mirror the CDBG program and work can be done in areas adjacent to ITA areas. Mayor Clough stated that Westlake had applied for funds for resurfacing Bradley Rd. and noted that the work was stopped at the corporate line, which didn’t make sense, instead of stopping at an intersection. Mr. Greenspan said he would look into this.

Mayor Patton suggested that the new Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish should be invited to attend a COG meeting to witness the cooperation and collaboration among the cities of the Westshore COG.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.
13. The next meeting of the Westshore COG will be February 11th.