

# **INTER-COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE**

HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

**TO:** POA Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Janice Morrison, Chairman Governmental Affairs Committee  
**SUBJECT:** GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
YEAR END REPORT 2005/2006 YEAR  
**DATE:** February 27, 2006

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

- In April, 2005, Linda Mayhood was welcomed as new staff liaison and Ginna Watson took her seat as POA Board liaison.
- In July Rita Smith resigned; Roger Pruitt was appointed to fill her unexpired term Sept. 9.
- Two members, Morrison and Meehan, completed 2 three year terms.
- Guy Dowell completed his one term tenure and elected not to serve a second.
- Dick Rabideau, Art Saalfield and Tom Bryant were appointed to fill the three empty slots.
- Meetings are held the first Friday following the POA Board work session, 8:00 AM at the Coronado Center.

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **1. WHITE PAPERS**

1. Committee members appeared before the POA Board at their May retreat to solicit support for Federal and State White Papers; approval was received June, 2005. (Appendix 1 and 2, respectively)
2. Cover letters were generated and mailing containing appropriate State/Federal Issues were mailed to approximately 23 officials and 6 organizations/MPO/Chambers in August. (Appendix 3, for one example of the cover letter.)
3. Committee teams were appointed to follow-up and arrange meetings with Recipients to answer questions, etc.

### **2. RETIREMENT/RELOCATION**

1. Early in the year, an e-mail sent to the State Director of Tourism outlining the Village's case for attracting retirees to Arkansas, prompted a meeting with State Tourism officials. The results of the Economic Impact Study and "Best Kept Secret" were presented. Morrison, Day, Mayhood and Johnston attended.
2. At this meeting, Tourism officials requested the group develop ideas to Improve State web links to retirement/relocation. This work was completed and sent on 8/31.
3. At the October HSV Saline County Appreciation Luncheon (see item #8) Shane Broadway, Terry Smith and Doug Kidd requested copies of the 'Web Suggestions' sent to Tourism officials.
  - These elected officials have made numerous contacts in support of this issue and changes are beginning to occur.
4. Work through Judge Fite, Mark Gillis and Bill Hope, Jr. in Benton culminated in the Inclusion of Retirement/Relocation in the Saline County Economic Development Plan.
5. A recent e-mail to the State Department of Economic Development resulted in a Little Rock meeting with Sylvester Smith, Small Business Development Unit Leader, to discuss the importance of Retirement/Relocation to the state. Mayhood, Johnston and Watson are working directly with Smith to enhance this program.
6. Watson (also President of AR Coalition of Planned Communities: ACPC) and Johnston are planning a combined ACPC/State officials meeting later this year to push Retirement/Relocation.
7. The new Arkansas Tour Guide boosts a two page article featuring retirement/relocation that mentions HSV.

8. In the most recent “Living In Arkansas” relocation guide (published by the state), Hot Springs Village is mentioned 3 times.

### 3. HIGHWAY COMPLETION AND IMPROVEMENT

1. Committee members continued discussions with the AR State Highway Commission (AHTD) and elected officials in support of a connection the Martin Luther Expressway and passing lanes for Highway 7. (Passing lanes will happen!)
2. Dick Breckon wrote AHTD Commissioner Rosenbaum requesting support for roadway projects important to HSV.
  - Dan Flowers, Director of AHTD, acknowledged receipt of the letter and stated the commission would consider the requests as future construction programs are developed.
3. Members attended the Hwy 70-270 east-west arterial dedication ceremony and annual appreciation luncheon that followed at Magic Springs.
4. Members attended the 12/09 AHTD meeting with Commissioner Rosebaum (at the Belvedere Country Club) hosted by HSV.
  - As a result of this meeting, Day sent a letter to the Highway Commission soliciting “safety funds” support for safety improvement at the east gate. Johnston followed up with a similar letter in support of the concept; Judge Fite was solicited for his support as well.
5. NRC developed plans to improve the East Gate Entrance including a westbound right turn lane, east bound left turn lane as well as beautification of the intersection.
  - A member of the GAC serves on the 2VI (Village Visual Image) Committee appointed by the POA Board to further this cause.
6. A meeting with Dennald Stroud of AHDT, 2VI, GAC and appropriate POA staff members is scheduled for 3/2.
  - Mr. Stroud has begun a feasibility study of the east gate area. (He is awaiting accident reports).

### 4. MILLER ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

1. Morrison, Day and Jackson worked countless hours assisting POA Staff with review and finalization of the Miller Study.
2. Dave Johnston, Mayhood and Chair Morrison presented findings to several Village groups and local chambers, and results have been shared during the one-on-one meetings with officials.
3. This information will continue to be shared.

### 5. SUPPORT FOR LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

1. Al Behm, Chair, Lakes and Water Management Committee, offered monthly updates on committee efforts regarding water issues. (See Water Committee’s Annual Report for details.)

### 6. MEMBERSHIP ON STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. The Committee scripted a letter to Governor Huckabee for Dick Breckon’s signature regarding Board and Commission vacancies. (Appendix 4)
2. Mayhood researched the appointment process with gubernatorial staff and on the web.
3. Her efforts results in a list of 5 areas of focus:
  - Governors Commission on Veterans Affairs
  - Arkansas Economic Development Commission
  - State Parks, Recreation, and Travel Commission
  - Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging
  - Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
4. Four qualified people have indicated their interest and applications have been submitted.
5. An appointment to the Advisory Council on Aging has been confirmed.
6. This effort will continue.

## 7. FEMA

Since the ice storm of 2001 the GAC has been working to get FEMA funds for the Village during/following emergencies. (See Legislative White Paper #6 and Congressional White Paper #1.) Federal House Bill 1137 includes verbiage that may make it possible for HSV to receive this type of Federal aid through the appropriate county.

1. In September an ad hoc committee of 3 GAC members and Villages (residents who worked/presently work with FEMA) was formed to monitor the progress of this Bill.
2. Monitoring as well as talks with local and federal officials in support of this Bill is on going.
3. Mayhood is staff liaison.

## 8. APPRECIATION LUNCHEONS

1. Two separate appreciation luncheons, one for Garland County (10/6) and Saline County (10/13) were held to thank County officials and others for their support of the Village. Both meetings were well attended.
2. Lists of invitees and attendees as well as invitations and programs for both counties are available at the POA (see Mayhood).
3. A Gift Packet containing informational pieces and the Right Choice CD was given to each attendee.
4. At a discussion following the 10/6 meeting it was decided to:
  - Distribute copies of the Economic Study recap sheet prior to Dave Johnston's presentation so the audience could follow along.
  - Prepare a slide to be shown during Johnston's presentation; and
  - Reconfigure the food line so that attendees could be served faster.
5. Following both luncheons committee members discussed several issues including
  - Where to hold the luncheons, i.e., in the Village or in Hot Springs and Benton
  - How often to have the luncheons, i.e., on a rotating basis, hosting only one per year.
6. While the pros and cons of each issue were discussed, no final decisions were made.

## 9. 'BEST KEPT SECRET' PRESENTATION

1. This Power Point/Paper presentation (Talking Points are available) was shared with numerous elected officials (and others) including:
  - Lanny Fite (Saline County Judge),
  - Bill Hope (Saline County Economic Development Corp),
  - Bill Sample (local State Representative),
  - Joe David Rice (Director of State Tourism) and his staff,
  - The Saline County Economic Development Executive Board (9/12), and
  - Attendees at the Garland County and Saline County luncheons.
2. The presentation is available on the POA web site. Several slides are being updated.

## 10. SALINE COUNTY SALUTE TO HSV

1. Members played a key role in Saline County's April Salute to HSV at a barbeque and visit with Saline County officials on the lawn at the county Court House in Benton.
2. This fund raiser benefited the Single Parent Scholarship Fund.
3. A plaque was presented to the POA and GAC for their efforts in making the day a success.

## 11. GARLAND COUNTY LEADERSHIP PRAYER BREAKFAST

1. Members attended the Oct 18<sup>th</sup> breakfast. Consensus was to purchase a table of 8 to accommodate several committee members along with invited staff members of various elected officials. In the end, only two staff accepted the invitation.
2. The remaining tickets were offered to chairpersons of other HSV standing committees and POA staff members.

## 12. SUB COMMITTEE FOR FUTURE GOALS AND DIRECTIONS:

1. A sub committee was appointed to consider goals and directions for the GAC in the coming year(s).  
The following are the key directions approved by the membership:
  - a. Continuing Efforts: includes the legislative program and ongoing relationships with surrounding communities, organizations and agencies;
  - b. Immediate Efforts: includes retirement/relocation as an economic development initiative with stepped-up focus on the Garland County side, recommendations for general improvement funds and interaction with elected officials to ensure their awareness of our needs, and Hwy. 5 improvements, and,
  - c. Long Range Efforts: includes working with the Parks & Tourism Commission to make them more receptive to expansion of their programs to include retirement/relocation and the federal initiative to enable HSV to be eligible for FEMA funds.

## 13. OTHER ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Regularly attended area School Board Meetings.
2. Monthly participation at Bryant and Benton Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Committee meetings.
  - Member asked to travel with Benton Chamber GAC to Washington DC for visits with Senators and Congressmen.
  - Member asked to serve as member of the Saline County Economic Development Corporation. Group has agreed to make “attracting retirees” one of their strategic Plans for economic development.
  - Day and Watson successfully lobbied the POA Board to unanimously approve \$5000 per year for three years to support the Saline County Economic Development Foundation. This is a new group and the Village supports their efforts.
3. Yearly attendance at Bryant and Benton Chamber Dinners.
4. Pre-reviewed the charter of the Arkansas Coalition of Planned Communities (ACPC).
5. Regularly meet with state and federal legislative representatives and their staffs.
6. Co-hosted reception prior to Saline County Quorum Court meeting in HSV July 17<sup>th</sup>.