

GCCMA Spring Business Meeting, Classic Center, Grand Hall 2-4, Athens-Clarke County

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

GCCMA President Chris Hobby called the meeting to order at 3:42pm and welcomed everyone to the business meeting.

Fall Meeting Minutes – Upon a motion by Adam Mestres and seconded by Angela Redding, the minutes from the 2023 Fall Business meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report: Review of Year-End 2023 Financials – GCCMA Secretary/Treasurer Sammy Rich gave a brief overview of the organization's financials including the unaudited numbers through December 31, 2023. Mr. Rich thanked Executive Director, Peggy Merriss, for her hard work with the organization's finances and specifically ensuring we had wisely invested our resources to maximize interest returns. Mr. Rich reported the organization had maintained a strong financial position throughout the entire year with \$450,792 in assets and liabilities. Following any final audit corrections, the organization is projected to finish the year with approximately \$20,000 in positive revenues.

Executive Director's Report - Ms. Merriss reiterated a portion of the organization's uncommitted fund balance had been invested with higher interest certificates of deposit, which offered the highest yield to the organization. Ms. Merriss provided a conference overview that highlighted having approximately 140-150 registered members, 40-50 vendors and more than 25 sponsors. Lastly, Ms. Merriss encouraged all members to support their District Directors by attending their upcoming district meetings.

Opioid Settlement Presentation: Dave Wills, Executive Director of ACCG and Larry Hanson, Executive Director of GMA, gave a report on how the opioid settlement funds for Georgia would be distributed. The State of Georgia entered a Settlement Agreement with manufacturers and distributors of opioids that will bring payments of \$638 million to Georgia over 18 years. Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities Commissioner, Kevin Tanner, is the Trustee of these funds. The State's share of the settlement funds is 75% (\$479 million) and will be put into a state-administered trust. Forty percent of the State's share of funds (\$191.6 million) must be spent on a regional basis throughout the State. The Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Georgia and Participating Local Governments requires the creation of the Georgia Opioid Settlement Advisory Commission (GOSAC) and Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) to assess grant applications and recommend funding for the regional portion of the opioid settlement funds. As part of the settlement, Participating Local Governments are required to vote on three GOSAC representatives and the RAC members for their respective regions.

CVIOG Report– Hardin Watkins reported that CVIOG had been busy working on the program for the Fall Conference to be held November 12th – 15th in Jekyll Island, Georgia. Mr. Watkins announced the new manager bootcamp would be held the Tuesday before start of the conference. Mr. Watkins announced CVIOG had just finished the Newly Elected Officials

training the week prior and hosted 260 newly elected municipal officials the prior week with an additional session being offered in Tifton. Mr. Watkins also announced that CVIOG had recently started a certified downtown professional's institute that was being headed up by Chrissy Marlowe.

ICMA Report – Peggy Merriss reported on behalf of Randy Reid, who was unable to attend due to recovery from shoulder surgery, that the prior International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Regional meeting system was no longer in use. Ms. Merriss reported that ICMA will hold two Local Government Reimagined conferences focused on “generative artificial intelligence,” with one at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston, MA April 10th - 12th and the other in Palm Desert, CA June 5th – 7th. These conferences will focus on cutting-edge applications, strategic insights and discovering how AI is reshaping the landscape of local government.

Ms. Merriss also reported that the 2024 annual ICMA conference would be held in Pittsburgh, PA September 21st- 25th. Lastly Ms. Merriss reported ICMA had received 10 applications from the southeast for the non-CAO board seat and GCCMA's Chelsea Jackson was one of the applicants.

Awards Presentation- Chair of the Awards Committee, Cleatus Phillips, joined President Hobby to present the newly created GCCMA Community Program Awards to the following communities.

Small City Award: City of Adel, Storybook Park is a collaboration with community partners to revitalize a blighted area to provide a space for rest, recreation, reading and opportunities for artistic expression.

Large City Award: City of Johns Creek, Driver Risk Intervention & Vehicle Education or DRIVE program that was developed with the City's municipal court to help youth by reinforcing safe driving habits and providing information for making safer driving choices.

Large County Awards (2 awarded as no small county submitted):

Glynn County, Tidal Pool Floating Bridges Project that allowed pleasant and safe access from Massengale Park to the ocean with a system of floating bridges that could be removed, reconfigured, or repurposed as needed.

Whitfield County, Consauga Community Addiction Recovery Center (CCARC) which was established to provide a place for community members and their families seeking treatment to recover and maintain relationships rather than becoming part of the criminal justice system.

Adjournment- Upon acclamation, the Spring Business meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted- Sammy Rich, Secretary/Treasurer