



League of Minnesota Cities  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
August 20, 2009

MINUTES

**Members Present:** Doug Anderson (Dayton), Richard Brainerd (Mahtomedi), Jeff Bertram (Paynesville), Ardell Brede (Rochester), Tim Breza (Winona), John Chattin (Bemidji), Matt Fulton (Coon Rapids), Lee Helgen (St. Paul), Betsy Hodges (Minneapolis), Ron Johnson (Lake City), Mark Karnowski (Princeton), Andy Kauffman (Montrose), Susan Larson (Isanti), Dan Ness (Alexandria), Dave Osberg (Hastings), Molly Park (Sunfish Lake), Wayne Wolden (Wadena), Joel Young (Chatfield)

**Members Absent:** Mary Hamann-Roland (Apple Valley)

**Staff Present:** Gary Carlson, Sarah Dirksen, Marky Engler, Kevin Frazell, Tom Grundhoefer, Laura Harris, Laura Kushner, Donyelle Mikacevich, Jim Miller, Don Reeder, Lisa Rund, Pete Tritz, Mary-Margaret Zindren,

Call to Order

President Brede called the meeting to order and asked Molly Park to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and to then share an art initiative within her city.

Agenda

Anderson moved approval of the agenda, seconded by Kauffman. Motion carried.

Presentations/General Communications

- 3.1 Jim Miller presented new Board members with an Aethenian Oath as this was not done at the Board orientation.
- 3.2 President Brede asked the Board for any comments or questions in follow up to the executive director's interim report. There were none. Tom Grundhoefer provided a brief update on the Metro Gang Strike Force.
- 3.3 Betsy Hodges, Chair of the Public Relations Committee, provided a brief summary of the meeting that took place on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

Approval of Consent Items

President Brede pulled item 4.4 for further discussion and then asked for a motion to approve the remaining items. Wolden moved approval of the consent items with the exception of 4.4, seconded by Fulton. Motion carried.

4.4 Appointment to the Voluntary Statewide Lump Sum Volunteer Fire Fighter Retirement Plan Advisory Board

Miller asked that the Board defer action on this item due to some information that was just provided to him. He indicated that he would like to look into this further and will bring this item back to the Board in September. Anderson moved approval to table until September, seconded by Larson. Motion carried.

Action Items

5.1 Endorsement for the National League of Cities (NLC) 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Board of Directors.

President Brede indicated the Mary McComber withdrew her name for nomination due to some personal obligations and would not be running for the NLC Board at this time.

The Board then interviewed Mayor Les Heitke, Willmar, for the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Council Member Greg Lemke, Moorhead, for a director position on the NLC Board. Both interviews were conducted via conference call.

Young made a motion to endorse Les Heitke for the NLC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, seconded by Anderson. The motion carried.

Hodges made a motion to endorse Greg Lemke for the NLC Board of Directors, seconded by Young. The motion carried.

5.2 Continued Discussion of Report on Conference and Training Programs

Frazell indicated that this was a continued discussion from the July meeting and that he would like to begin by presenting the Board with several questions that staff would like feedback on.

The first six questions revolved around the Annual Conference and whether the Board felt the conference be seen as a way the League fulfills its mission; is it meeting its purpose; is the Board comfortable with the current level of subsidy; should the conference continue to be held annually; how should the conference continue to be evaluated; and finally, if the conference was being developed from scratch what should it look like.

Consensus was that the Annual Conference is one of the main things the League does and the Board felt strongly that it should be continued on an annual basis. The Board felt the conference provided a great learning opportunity for city officials, a great time to mingle and meet new people and build relationships around the state.

Suggestions to increase attendance at the conference included lowering the registration fee to make it more affordable, possibly offering some scholarships, creating a discount for those who bring someone along to the conference and also to reach out and touch those cities that don't attend.

The Board indicated they were comfortable with the current level of subsidy and felt that the conference needed to be more substantive with more recognized speakers. It was suggested to possibly ask the business associates and partners to help subsidize the conference. It was also suggested that the conference planning committee be provided with a budget to work from which may assist them when determining speakers and content. Another suggestion included adding a more substantive legislative agenda to the conference.

The Board was also asked whether they felt the Regional meetings and Annual Conference should be alternating years. The Board felt very strongly that the annual conference continue to be held annually. There were mixed comments relating to the Regional Meetings, some said every other year and others indicated they felt they needed to continue each year.

Some other suggestions that were raised included having meals on their own, possibly inviting local restaurants in to provide food in a way that would showcase their business and having entertainment one evening instead of two.

#### 5.3 Staffing Impact of Strategic Plan Workplan

Mary-Margaret Zindren presented the Board with staff's proposed reductions in programs and activities that would make room for the new strategic plan items. Those reductions included reducing the number of editions of the Minnesota Cities magazine, discontinuing printing the Cities Bulletin, discontinuing the presidential focus for future presidents, and pursuing a more limited Governance Committee agenda. She then asked the Board for feedback to staff's proposal.

Hodges suggested reducing the number of magazines from 10 to 6 with a special legislative edition after the session. After some discussion, Brainerd moved approval of the proposed reductions and to include Betsy's recommendation of 6 issues of the Cities Magazine with a special legislative edition if needed, seconded by Hodges. Motion carried.

#### 5.4 Demonstration of E-Learning Pilot Project

Due to time constraints, it was agreed that this item would be put on the September agenda.

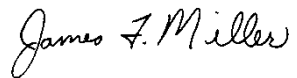
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6. Announcements and Adjournment

Andy Kauffman invited everyone to attend Montrose days. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James F. Miller".

James F. Miller, Executive Director