



# **Leadership Development Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Friday, August 13, 2021**

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**Members present:** Mike Aspacher, Mark Stahl, Rhonda Sewell, Dave Thompson; **Member(s) Excused:** Doris Herringshaw, Sandy Spang, Craig Stough; **Staff Present:** Tim Brown, Jennifer Allen

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**Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions** – The Leadership Development Committee met on Friday, August 13, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. in the TMACOG Boardroom. Chair Mark Stahl called the meeting to order after a quorum was confirmed. Rhonda Sewell, director of belonging and community engagement for the Toledo Museum of Art and the newest member of the committee, was welcomed to her first meeting. Introductions were made by committee members who were meeting Ms. Sewell for the first time.

**Approval of Minutes** – A ***motion*** was made by Dave Thompson and ***seconded*** by Mike Aspacher to approve minutes from the June 11, 2021, meeting. Rhonda Sewell abstained. The motion passed.

**Public Comment Period** – There were no representatives from the public present for comments.

**TMACOG Leadership: 2022 Chair and Vice Chair** – Mark Stahl's term as chair will expire at the January 2022 General Assembly. Vice Chair Mike Aspacher agreed to serve as chair in 2022. Tim Brown and Mike Aspacher will meet this fall to discuss potential candidates for the committee's consideration. The eligible candidate for vice chair must be an elected official from a TMACOG member jurisdiction. The Leadership Development Committee will present the 2022 nominees for chair and vice chair to the Executive Committee for approval in November, the Board of Trustees in December, and recommended for election by the General Assembly in January.

**Summer Caucuses with State Lawmakers Recap** – Attendance as well as the topics presented at the caucuses was good. The Monroe County and Wood County fairs were held the week of the caucuses, which resulted in lack of participation by county commissioners. It was mentioned that some of the topics were outdated, and that it took some time to get the caucuses started. It was suggested that agendas be sent to caucus members prior to the breakout group. He also noted that at past the in-person event, legislators are showcased on stage. We lose the opportunity to let them "shine" at the virtual sessions.

It was noted that the Zoom platform allows members to go into private rooms to network and to briefly discuss topics/issues before joining the breakout sessions. It was suggested that this idea be employed at future virtual caucuses.

With regard to the City Caucus, it was well attended, and staff did a great job developing and presenting relevant topics for discussion. However, the discussion topics were dominated by the moderator and there wasn't a lot of opportunity for interactive discussion for the other caucus members to share information about what's going on in their respective communities. Virtual caucuses limit the ability for everyone to communicate and share information.

Mr. Brown sought feedback from committee as to whether or not future summer caucuses should be held in person, virtually, or a hybrid format for the summer caucuses. The advantage is staff, leadership, members, and legislators to participate in more than one session and saves on commute/drive time. Committee members recommended hosting the caucuses virtually and have an in-person session the last day of the program to bring everyone together for networking, caucus reports, and a panel with state lawmakers.

**Action Item:** *2022 Summer Caucuses with State Lawmakers Program: Caucuses meet virtually over 3-days and then bring everyone together for an in-person event on Friday morning for breakfast, networking, caucus facilitators to provide summary of their discussions, and a Panel Forum with State Lawmakers. As part of the housekeeping remarks for the caucuses, everyone will be asked to turn on their cameras and participate in the discussions.*

**2022 General Assembly Topics and Speakers** – The 2022 General Assembly will be in person. The committee discussed potential topics and speakers. After a lengthy discussion, they concluded that our region is already known for its vast resources and for being a hot spot for development. They suggested assembling a panel of area leaders to discuss the opportunities and challenges in regarding workforce development as the topic for the keynote presentation. How do we do a better job of developing a workforce pipeline? How do we train, maintain and attract talent with a focus on education.

#### **Potential Panelists**

- Russell Mills, Senior Director, Department of Regional Development, BGSU
- Kojo Quartey, President, Monroe County Community College
- Ed Ewers, Superintendent, Penta Career Center
- Mary DeWitt Hoesler with JobsOhio

It was suggested that information from economic development agencies in the region to share with members as a takeaway from the panel discussion. Tim Lake from Monroe BDC (in contact with state re: Gordie Howe International Bridge, which will have a major impact on the region).

**Any and All Other Business** – Mr. Brown and Kari Gerwin, TMACOG's director of Water Quality Planning, gave a presentation on TMACOG's water quality program at a recent Bedford Township board meeting.

Mr. Brown sought input from committee members regarding their preference to hold its monthly meetings in person or virtually. When a vote is required, the committee would need to meet in person. Based on feedback from everyone around the table, the committee will continue to meet in person. Mr. Thompson announced his plans to retire in 18 months as Monroe County's drain commissioner.

TMACOG staff continue to work a combination of in office and remotely. Staff clock in and out using an online software. Each staff member is required work one full workday each week and two full workdays after the week of Labor Day until further notice.

**Next Meeting/Adjournment** – The next regularly scheduled committee meeting will take place on Friday, September 10 at 9:30 a.m. in the TMACOG Boardroom. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.