

Local Government Attorneys of Virginia | Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
February 29, 2024 at 12 p.m. | Zoom

Called Electronic Meeting

Attendees: Lesa Yeatts (President), Andy Herrick (Vice President), Kelly Lackey (Treasurer), Courtney Sydnor (Secretary), Mark Popovich (Immediate Past President), Michael Abbott, John Blair, Martin Crim, Brandi Law, Patrick Murphrey, Ryan Samuel, Tyler Southall

Staff: Amy Sales, Christy Jenkins

Guests: None

Absent: Alan Spencer

Ms. Yeatts declared a quorum and started the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Ms. Yeatts shared the unofficial agenda: 2024 LGA Spring Conference program review and approval and the Opening Night Party location, the Cherin and Erwin awards nominations review and selection, and the 2024 Nominating Committee report of the slate of officers.

A. 2024 LGA Spring Conference Program Review and Approval

Ms. Jenkins displayed the final draft of the proposed agenda not distributed before the meeting. Ms. Sydnor shared the original draft when she distributed the meeting request to the Board. Ms. Jenkins had difficulty with internet connection. Ms. Sales displayed the updated content.

Ms. Law shared that Lola Perkins requested a time change on Friday. There was a discussion of P&P requirements and banquet timing. Ms. Jenkins will follow up with Perkins on her request sharing that her session needs to remain as scheduled.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Herrick noted that the legislative session was two hours and requested that be reduced to an hour and a half. It was noted that this session habitually runs over time. Ms. Sydnor shared that since it is the first session, time may be eaten by welcomes and suggested noting a 15-minute period for opening remarks, followed by an hour and a half session. Mr. Blair asked if the break would be extended, or if subsequent pieces would roll back. Ms. Jenkins will adjust the schedule with the day ending 15 minutes earlier. Ms. Sales noted that a common evaluation complaint is that the legislative session spends time on failed bills, strategy, and lobbying actions, rather than the bills that passed and affect local government. Mr. Crim also shared that statistical information regarding bills introduced, passed, failed, etc. is unnecessary. Ms. Jenkins will share this feedback with the moderator.

ACTION: Ms. Sydnor moved to have the schedule adjusted to identify a clear time for opening remarks followed by a 90-minute session, and the remainder of the day would adjust to the time thereafter. Mr. Murphrey seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Sales noted that there are several sessions that require waiver consideration based on a lack of active member representation. Ms. Yeatts asked if the committee was told of the requirement. Ms. Law shared that Andrew McRoberts, Committee Chair, shared it several times.

- Court of Appeals: Ms. Jenkins reviewed the speaker experience provided by Andrew McRoberts.
- Employment: Mr. Crim shared that Ms. Alejandro assists Sands Anderson PC on its representation of local government.
- Finance: Ms. Yeatts shared that the panelists are experienced in the topic and qualified to speak on the topic.

During the discussions on the sessions that required waivers, there was a vote taken to provide a waiver. However, it was unclear whether that motion applied to all sessions that required a waiver, so a second vote was taken.

ACTION: Ms. Sydnor moved to provide waiver requests for the three sessions listed above. Mr. Southall seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Yeatts asked if there were other program questions. Mr. Murphrey asked if the program needs to be approved in its entirety.

ACTION: Mr. Crim moved to approve the program as amended. Ms. Sydnor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Murphrey asked if sessions that meet the VSB/LGA/VIG Leadership Program can be identified in the program. Ms. Law shared that she would work with Ms. Jenkins to note those topics.

B. Opening Night Party Location

DISCUSSION: Ms. Jenkins provided the list of available venues to host the opening night party, including the Virginia General Assembly Dining Area/Commonwealth Room and the Virginia State Capitol Senate Room 3/House Room 3. She noted that both are at the Capitol, their aesthetics, and that they both require the same in-house caterer. Mr. Herrick asked if all those items considered, is the only real differences the price. Ms. Jenkins shared that she was unsure of the cost and thinks that what is listed for the room in the new General Assembly Dining Area/Commonwealth Room is higher than the actual cost. Mr. Abbott asked if the caterer allows menu selection. Ms. Jenkins shared that she thinks she will have choices.

ACTION: Ms. Law moved to host the 2024 Spring Conference Opening Night Party at the General Assembly Building Dining Area/Commonwealth Room. Ms. Lackey seconded the motion. Mr. Crim asked that staff work to get the best price. The motion passed unanimously.

2026 Conference Location

DISCUSSION: Ms. Jenkins shared that she received proposals from Williamsburg, Cesare's, and the Portsmouth area. She noted that Cesare's offered to waive the resort fee (amount unknown) if a contract was signed by March 31, 2024. Mr. Herrick asked that the proposal details be distributed for review and the Board will reconvene, if needed.

C. Awards Committee Reports: Cherin and Erwin Awards

Ms. Sales presented the report as provided by Awards Committee Chair, Tara McGee.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Murphrey asked if the special projects award for the Leadership Program is for the program and/or the committee. Mr. Herrick clarified that it is for the committee who developed and provided the program.

ACTION: Ms. Sydnor moved to award the Cherin award to Cynthia Baily and Erwin Special Projects Award to the Leadership Program Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. Samuel seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Popovich and Ms. Law abstaining.

D. 2024 Nominating Committee Report

DISCUSSION: Ms. Yeatts reviewed the nominating committee report provided by Adam Kinsman, Committee Chair. The nominees include:

- Andy Herrick for President
- Kelly Lackey for Vice President
- Courtney Sydnor for Treasurer
- Ryan Samuel for Secretary
- John Blair and Brandi Law for second two-year term
- Jeff Gore and Sarah Kegley for first two-year term.

Ms. Yeatts certified that the nominees meet the requirements and that the committee and staff followed the process and guidelines in the P&P. She asked the Board if there were any questions on the nominees and the process. Mr. Herrick clarified that there is no need for a Board vote. There was no further discussion.

Ms. Yeatts adjourned the meeting at 12:59 p.m.