

SSCVA Regular Board of Directors Meeting
7770 Corinne Dr. Hammond, IN
April 16, 2026

1. WELCOME

a. Roll Call

- i. In attendance: BLACKWELL, BONDS, BRASHIER, ESPINO, GRISOLIA, MALONEY, PATENA, QUNELL, SCHUFFERT, SEGARRA, SPENCER, WHITE, WIESER
- ii. Absent: CASH, EVANS, KLIDERIS, HOLMES, ROBERTS, VELLIGAN
- iii. Staff: PHIL TAILLON, STEPHANIE SMITH, HEATER BECERRA, KRISTIN TAYLOR, NICOLE WOLVERTON, NIKKI LOPEZ

b. Pledge of Allegiance

2. REPORTS

a. CEO Report

- i. A Bears decision should be made by the end of May. Other sports organizations are showing interest in Northwest Indiana due to the ongoing process.
- ii. Attended the Destinations International CEO Tourism Conference and brought back insights on using AI for tourism.
- iii. Hammond is having a groundbreaking for their third station, which ties into the overall tourism strategy for Northwest Indiana.
- iv. The new train stations are expected to boost tourism by bringing more money into the region.
- v. Congratulations to Hard Rock for their recent ribbon-cutting for the expansion of their high-limit room.
- vi. The Convention Center project is progressing, with the RDA and Gary working together to get state match approval from the Indiana budget committee.
- vii. Will be in Dallas for a CDME class and the Convention Sales and Services Convention from April 26 to 29.
- viii. Speaking at the Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce luncheon on May 7, with a new presentation prepared.
- ix. An application for \$65 million in READY dollars was submitted for a marketing promotion called "Sand and Steel," with collaboration from multiple entities.

b. CFO Report

i. Innkeepers

- 1. \$47,000 increase in innkeepers tax for March, totaling \$351,000, and a \$145,000 increase for the year.

2. The increase is attributed to third-party contributions and slightly higher ADR.
 - ii. Financial Update
 1. Claims for the month are standard, with 75% of appropriations remaining for the end of the quarter.
 - c. Approval of claims #2911-2913, 31525-32273 in the amount of \$1,019,131.46
 - i. Motion made by **BRASHIER** to approve claims, seconded by **ESPINO**.
Approved unanimously.
 - d. Staff Reports – In BOD packet
 - e. Committee Reports
3. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. None
4. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes March 18, 2026
 - i. Motion made by **GRISOLIA** to approve minutes, seconded by **BLACKWELL**. Approved unanimously.
 - b. Approval of Resolution 2026-4-16: A resolution adopting policies for gift shop sales, rental fees and other miscellaneous fees.
 - i. Motion made by **SEGARRA** to approve gift shop resolution, seconded by **MALONEY**. Approved unanimously.
5. PRESENTATION
 - a. Dan Repay - Little Calumet River Basin gave an update on the Kennedy Avenue Bridge Project.
6. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a. Two (2) minutes maximum per person or five (5) minutes for a group spokesperson. Please keep your comments civil and constructive to policy issues. The Chair, at his/her sole discretion, may recognize individuals wishing to speak on different topics.
 - b. New Regular Meeting- Date: May 28, 2026, at 12:00 pm at the Indiana Welcome Center.
7. ADJOURNMENT
 - a. Motion made by **SCHUFFERT** to adjourn, seconded by **SPENCER**.