



**SSCVA Regular Board of Directors Meeting
7770 Corinne Dr. Hammond, IN
May 15 at 12:00 PM**

1. WELCOME

a. Roll Call

In attendance: BLACKWELL, CASH, ESPINO, EVANS, GRISOLIA, MALONEY,
PATENA, QUNELL, ROBERTS, SCHUFFERT, SEGARRA, SPENCER, VELLIGAN, WHITE
Absent: BONDS, BRASHIER, BUSHEMI, KLIDERIS, HOLMES
SSCVA Staff in attendance: PHIL TAILLON, STEPHANIE SMITH, HEATHER BECERRA,
NIKKI LOPEZ, NICOLE WOLVERTON, KRISTIN TAYLOR

b. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman requested that the item 5 on the agenda (BOSE Legislative Recap) be moved to the beginning of the meeting.

a. BOSE Legislative Recap

- i. Phil & Andy from BOSE gave legislative updates.
- ii. IDDC funding was cut from \$20 million to \$3 million.
- iii. Discussed the impact of tourism with budget cuts.

2. REPORTS

a. CEO Report

- i. The new 2025-2026 area guides have been delivered and are being distributed to partners and local businesses.
- ii. National Travel & Tourism week just wrapped up, and Phil had an article in the NWI Times about the importance of tourism.
- iii. May 21st is when the commissioners will make a decision on the new convention center.
- iv. The SSCVA is starting a new, free breakfast series where we will bring in tourism leaders throughout the country, sometimes from the state, to speak to our 19 different communities in Lake County to help give them the latest and greatest on what they could be doing to help bring people in. Announcing the first speaker soon.
- v. Optimus Lake design meetings have started.

- vi. Met with Ameristar Casino and toured their facility. They have some good spaces there that we could utilize for future meetings.
- vii. The latest Partnership Blitz was at the Shrine of Christs Passion, and you can view it on YouTube.
- viii. Accepted into the Certified Destination Management Executive (CDME) program. There are six courses to complete, and the first one will be held in Chicago in July.

b. CFO Report

i. Innkeepers

- 1. For the month of April, which is the February collections for hotels, there was a decrease in innkeepers collections.
- 2. Checks to cities and towns will go out in June based on innkeepers collections for 2025.

ii. Financial Update

- 1. Appropriations are on track with about 67% remaining for the rest of the year.

c. Approval of Claims #2860-2882, #30262-31669 in the amount of \$1,353,366.39

- i. Motion made by **MALONEY** to approve claims, seconded by **PATENA**. Approved unanimously 14-0

d. Staff Reports - In Board Packet

CMO Heather Becerra

- i. Shout out to Andrea for all the work in creating the 2025-2026 Area Guide. The SSCVA is one of the only DMO's to put the whole guide together and hand it off to the printer. We have already received 1,700 requests for the new guide that will be mailed out via bulk mailing.
- ii. Barb Mack sold every spot in our quarterly rack card.
- iii. Next month the board will see the invoices for our Marketing Partnerships International (MPI) campaigns (South Shore Rocks, Gary Air Show and other attractions). This invoice has already been previously approved by the board.

e. Committee Reports

- i. None

3. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Approval of Sponsorship Festival of the Lakes in the amount of \$15,000
 - ii. Motion made by **PATENA** to approve sponsorship, seconded by **VELLIGAN**. Approved unanimously 14-0

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approval of Meeting Minutes April 17, 2025

- i. Motion made by **SPENCER** to approve April meeting minutes, seconded by **CASH**. Approved unanimously 14-0
 - b. Approval of Arctic Engineering/Bauer Services HVAC contract in the amount of \$502,150.00.
 - i. Motion made by **SCHUFFERT** to approve HVAC contract, seconded by **BLACKWELL**. Approved unanimously 14-0
 - c. Approval of Site Services Sealcoating contract in the amount of \$14,764.00
 - i. Motion made by **GRISOLIA** to approve sealcoating contract, seconded by **ESPINO**. Approved unanimously 14-0
 - d. Motion made by **SCHUFFERT** to add Dillinger collection to the agenda, seconded by **VELLIGAN**. Approved unanimously 14-0
 - i. Motion made by **SEGARRA** to have the SSCVA CEO, Phil Taillon, research ways to minimize the SSCVA's exposure on the Dillinger collection and related payments. Seconded by **VELLIGAN**. Approved unanimously 14-0
- 5. PRESENTATION (moved to beginning of meeting)
 - a. BOSE Legislative Recap
- 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: June 19, 2025, at 12:00 pm
- 7. ADJOURNMENT
 - a. Motion made by **SEGARRA** to adjourn, seconded by **VELLIGAN**. Approved unanimously 14-0