

SSCVA Regular Board of Directors Meeting
Bulldog Park
183 S. West St., Crown Point, IN 46307
July 16, 2026

1. WELCOME

a. Roll Call

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

b. Pledge of Allegiance

2. REPORTS

a. CEO Report

- i. Discussed the importance of the new convention center and its potential for hosting state and regional conventions.
- ii. The first official meeting with the Chicago Bears will be happening soon, focusing on marketing and project collaboration.
- iii. Encourage board members and business owners to nominate eligible Lake County employees for the September 23 ROSE & RISE & awards.
- iv. Discusses potential legislative changes to help the South Shore with funding for various projects.
 - 1. The South Shore is the second largest county but sixth highest funded in innkeepers' taxes and casino dollars combined.
 - 2. An effort is being made to change the distribution of the first 5% of innkeeper's taxes to benefit the South Shore.
 - 3. A panel discussion with the Urban Land Institute was held, promoting Northwest Indiana to potential investors and businesses.
- v. Provided an update on the upcoming air show on August 21st, featuring drone pyrotechnics and fireworks.
 - 1. The air show is expected to be well-funded by sponsors, with Hard Rock being the top sponsor.
 - 2. Potential return of the Thunderbirds in 2027 and the Blue Angels in the future.

b. CFO Report

- i. Reports a total collection of \$2.1 million and a 50.2% appropriation for June, with a focus on budget planning for the rest of the year.
 - c. Approval of claims #2940-2942, 31854-32408 in the amount of \$1,078,148.30
 - i. Motion made by **VELLIGAN** to approve claims, seconded by **PETENA**. Approved unanimously.
 - d. Staff Reports – In BOD packet
 - e. Committee Reports
 - i. CEO incentive compensation review, focusing on tourism and economic impact, strategic leadership, partnership and sponsorship revenue, and financial stewardship.
 - ii. The review includes six metrics, with weights assigned to each category, and a discussion on the flexibility of the metrics.
 - iii. Discussion about the economic performance metric and its potential impact on the CEO's compensation.
- 3. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. None
- 4. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes June 18, 2026
 - i. Motion made by **WIESER** to approve minutes, seconded by **GRISOLOA**. Approved unanimously.
 - b. Approval of Datafy Contract in the amount of \$40,325.00
 - i. Motion made by **MALONEY** to approve Datafy Contract, seconded by **SCHUFFERT**. Approved unanimously.
 - c. Approval of CEO Compensation Review
 - i. Motion made by **VELLIGAN** to CEO Compensation Review, seconded by **EVANS**. Approved unanimously.
- 5. PRESENTATION
 - a. None
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE
 - 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: August 20, 2026 at 12:00 pm at the Indiana Welcome Center.
- 7. ADJOURNMENT
 - a. Motion made by **VELLIGAN** to adjourn, seconded by **WIESER**.