

# **SOUTHWEST ILLINOIS TRADE & INVESTMENT COUNCIL**

**Thursday, January 26, 2018**

**America's Central Port**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **I. Roll Call and Introductions**

President Kniepkamp opened the meeting at 9:00 A.M. and welcomed guests Ronda Sauget and Kerry Smith. Next David asked that a roll be taken. The following members were present. Secretary Dahl, stated that there was not a quorum. President Kniepkamp indicated that no actions could be taken, but agenda items would still be discussed.

#### **Council Board of Directors**

Sherry Brianza	Erick Dahl
Edie Koch (proxy)	James Arnold (proxy)
Tim Cantwell	Paul Toskin
David Kniepkamp	Dennis Wilmsmeyer
Dave Miller	
<u>Ex-Officios</u>	
Elizabeth Ahren	Kim Hamilton
Silvia Torres	Mark Spizzo
Kerry Smith	

David Miller suggested that we look into the Council's adherence to the Open Meeting Act and Dennis Wilmsmeyer suggested that the bylaws be amended in the future to make it easier to make a quorum.

### **II. Approval of October 26, 2017 Minutes**

President Kniepkamp asked the Directors if there were any corrections to the minutes. There no corrections. Due to the lack of the quorum, minutes would need to be approved at the April meeting.

### **III. Officers Reports:**

#### **A. Executive.**

President Kniepkamp noted that the Executive Committee met on January 11<sup>th</sup> to assemble the agenda and to discuss other issues to be further reported by the Committee members.

#### **B. Financial**

Paul Toskin, Treasurer gave a brief financial report that indicated a current net balance of \$1, 664. Paul went on to reports that total projected 2018 revenue would be \$4,450 and that the net revenue minus expenses would be \$2,497.

### **IV. Committee Reports:**

#### **A. Nomination.**

Edie Koch, Chair for this Committee, reported that the annual election of officers would be taking place at the April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. She asked that anyone interested in being considered for an office should email her in the next couple of months. Koch also indicated that she would be sending out an email with descriptions of the Officer positions.

A slate of nominees would be brought to the April meeting for a vote by the full Council. Nominations would also be taken from the floor at that time.

### **B. Program (Regional Trade Mission)**

Chairman for this Committee, Silvia Torres, reported on progress of planning on the Southwestern Illinois Trade and Investment Mission to Mexico. A draft detailing important aspects of the mission was included in the packet for reference. The date was set for June 25-29, 2018. She went on to report that America's Central Port, LR International, and Smart Controls were going. Torres stated that she also plans to send an invite to all of her export clients in SWIL to secure additional participants. Silvia added that she has been in contact with the State's Trade office and the Mexico City office.

### **C. Marketing/Communication**

Kniepkamp reported that the website address is [www.swibillinois.org](http://www.swibillinois.org). He reported that an agreement had been secured with Kerry Smith to write content for the website. Kerry will also be working on press releases for the Trade Mission to Mexico and the inbound trade mission, "Discover SWIL".

## **V. Old Business:**

### **A. Adhoc Committee on Reverse Trade Mission.**

Koch gave an update on progress for this initiative. This committee met three times to develop and implement plans for this event which will take place May 15-16, 2018. Koch reported that preliminary financial sponsorships have already been secured, with more to be attained in coming months.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. Amendments to the Bylaws – Membership Structure.**

President Kniepkamp referred members to the amendments that were sent to everyone for review prior to the quarterly meeting. The purpose of the amendments was to institute a membership fee structure and the allowance for associate memberships. Section 9.1 and section 12.3, 12.4, and 12.5 were affected. A discussion ensued, but President Kniepkamp indicated that due to a lack of a quorum, the vote for the amendment would have to be tabled until the April meeting.

### **B. Adhoc Research Committee on future Trade Missions**

Sherry Brianza reported on the progress of this committee. She introduced several sources of data that could help make decisions on future trade mission that would best meet the needs of the companies in the region. She remarked that the committee still had additional work to do.

## **VII. Public Comment.**

There were no public comments.

## **VIII. Announcements.**

It was mentioned that the U.S. Commerce Service can help with what you need to know before you export.

## **IX. Next meeting confirmation and adjournment**

President Kniepkamp reminded that the next meeting would be on April 26<sup>th</sup> at SWIDA. With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned.