



MEETING NOTICE

DATE: January 23, 2025

TO: Mayors, Board Chairmen Chief Administrative Officers & Affiliate Members

FROM: Pat Kelly, Executive Director

RE: Membership Meeting, **7:00 pm**, Thursday, January 23, 2025 at Creve Coeur City Hall

Refreshments will be served at 6:30 pm

The first League meeting of the fall will be held at the above time and location. The address is 300 N New Ballas Rd, Creve Coeur, MO 63141.

Program: Melissa Price Smith is the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney, appointed by Missouri Governor Mike Parson and sworn into office on January 3, 2025. She is the first woman to hold a countywide office in St. Louis County. Melissa earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Missouri–St. Louis and a Juris Doctor from Saint Louis University School of Law. She began her tenure with the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office in 2008, dedicating over 17 years to public service. Throughout her 20-year career as a prosecutor, Smith has worked extensively with law enforcement to combat crime and seek justice for victims. She most recently supervised the office’s Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Unit, prosecuting cases involving child abusers, perpetrators of sexual assault, and violent offenders. She will serve the remainder of Wesley Bell’s term, which ends on January 1, 2027.

The membership will also be asked to consider a resolution supporting regional examination of and plan to combat our declining population trends.

Enclosed for your review are the Minutes of the October meeting and the proposed resolution.

We hope you will be able to join us.

MINUTES
MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF METRO ST. LOUIS
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
October 24, 2024
Brentwood Park

I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by President Tim Lowery at 7:04 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Introduction of Host – Mayor David Dimmitt, Brentwood

Mayor Dimmitt welcomed attendees to their new park, discussed aspects of the park, and discussed how Park Commission Grants helped fund a portion of the project.

III. Presentation on St. Louis County Propositions

County Councilwoman Days presented an overview on the three St. Louis County Charter Amendments that will be voted on at the November General Election:

Prop A – changes the appointment process for the Port Authority Board

Prop C – authorizes the county council to retain legal counsel for certain purposes

Prop O – provides that county elected officials' terms begin on the same day

IV. Approval of Minutes of September 26, 2024, Meeting

The Minutes from the September 26, 2024 meeting were approved.

V. Finance Report

Mayor Edward Mahon of Rock Hill gave the monthly Financial Report as follows:

Expenditures during the first three months of the fiscal year, July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024 totaled \$110,509.43 and were allocated as follows:

General Expenses – A. Personnel Expenses \$75,591.29; B. Operating Expenses \$34,918.14. The total unexpended General Fund budgeted balance is \$374,319.57 – 77% of the budget with 75% of the fiscal year remaining. General Fund cash and investments as of September 30 totaled \$814,713.75. Expenses from the restricted settlement fund totaled \$5,331.32. The Settlement fund balance as of September 30 is \$621,981.

VI. President's Report

President Lowery stated that the League will hold an Affiliate Holiday Open House (exhibit hall) on December 12th for Affiliate Members in lieu of the November membership meeting.

VII. Executive Director's Report

Park Grants – The Park Commission will hold a meeting Nov. 29 to approve Round 2024 grants. The advisory committee recommends funding 21 projects totaling over \$9 million in grants.

Training Academy – Meghan McKernan and Ryan Boatright of Gilmore & Bell presented on tax-exempt requirements for municipal bonds.

Open House – Mr. Kelly also encouraged members to attend the Holiday Open House.

VIII. Program – Jim Brasfield, Chairman of the Municipal Parks Grant Commission

Chairman Brasfield presented a slideshow on the history of the Parks Commission and notable projects.

XI. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to consider.



REGIONAL POPULATION

MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF METRO ST. LOUIS

WHEREAS, the bi-state St. Louis MSA has experienced a dramatic lack of population growth – as compared to similar regions around the country – over the past five decades, as shown on the attached Table; and

WHEREAS, our region’s population stagnation has only gotten worse since then, because the significant decline in population of St. Louis City and St. Louis County is no longer being offset by the population increases in St. Charles and the other Missouri collar counties; and

WHEREAS, population growth drives economic growth by increasing the demand for products, services and community amenities; and

WHEREAS, lack of robust population growth is one of the most significant barriers to business attraction and job growth, because it reflects an aging and stagnant work force that is unattractive to site selectors and business leaders; and

WHEREAS, our adverse half-century trend demands that business, civic and government leaders give urgent attention to identifying the steps required to reverse this trend and to establishing attainable regionwide goals to achieve before the 2030 census; and

WHEREAS, the demographic trends in our region make clear that to increase our population we must have more in-migration to the region and less out-migration from the region;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipal League of Metro St. Louis supports a regionwide effort to combat our adverse population trends by bringing together local government leaders from throughout the region, along with the entire business, civic, non-profit and academic communities, in a combined and unified effort; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal League of Metro St. Louis recommends that this effort be coordinated by the East-West Gateway Council of Governments and pursue three key action steps: 1) reach a consensus, up front and in advance, on the nature of the problem; 2) ensure that everyone is truly on board with a common effort to directly address this challenge; and 3) commit to a process that is both candid and evidence-driven, including examination of other similar regions that have grown much faster.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 23TH DAY OF JANUARY 2025.

Municipal League of Metro St. Louis

By _____
Mayor Tim Lowery, President