

North Central Illinois Logistics Council
Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2009

The North Central Illinois Logistics Council members and guests were welcomed to the meeting at IVCC by Ted VanSickle.

PRESENT: Ron Anderson, Ken Brown, Duane Burnette, DeAnna Carlson, Jim Conness, Christine Dahm, Ron Dose, Fred Esmond, Jeff Fiegenschuh, Pam Furlan, William Gahlberg, Ray Gatza, Mark Janko, Herb Klein, Barb Koch, Debb Ledgenski, Anna Lijewski, Kevin Lindeman, Tim Mills, Jim Narzewski, Monica Near, Pete Nelson, Dave Noble, Elaine Novak, Boyd Palmer, Jeromy Raatz, Mike Reindl, Jim Riley, Colby Sawin, Dianna Schuler, Bill Simmons, Tom Spelich, Ted VanSickle

Introductions were made by all present.

Ted VanSickle introduced the guest speaker, Mr. William Gahlberg, of William E. Gahlberg & Associates. Mr. Gahlberg's presentation was on the "Future of Logistics Industry."

- Mr. Gahlberg began with an overview of his business background of forty years in logistics. He noted that the "world has changed in our lifetimes" and provided baselines and comparisons in a number of areas, such as golf, baseball, etc. (Mr. Gahlberg is a former professional golfer.)
- Mr. Gahlberg has been involved in the total development of logistics over the years including: residence, retail, office and warehousing. He referred to the development outside of Chicago as the first generation of logistics. When the price of land increased in Lisle and Naperville, he began to look for other opportunities along I55 and I80, such as Bolingbrook, Romeoville and Joliet. The municipalities had very little infrastructure. Mr. Gahlberg talked about the importance of infrastructure, utilities, water and sewer and the importance of landscaping. Romeoville and Bolingbrook formed an alliance for a joint service district to help the infrastructure. In 1986, there were 115 thousand square feet of warehousing in Bolingbrook. Today there are 30 million square feet of warehousing in Bolingbrook and 20 plus million in Romeoville. Mr. Gahlberg provided photos of the areas to show comparison of 1986 to now. He noted that it is a "win/win for any municipality."
- The master plan for the North Utica Business Park was distributed for review. Mr. Gahlberg noted that this is the plan that is being developed and that it typifies most business parks with the water tower at the west end of the property. William E. Gahlberg & Associates have acquired land for future development in Spring Valley, Mendota, Ottawa, and LaSalle.
- Mr. Gahlberg pointed out that Chicago is the only city with six major railroads and fourteen interstates and is the "crossroads of America." We need to capitalize on the interstates' great access, and the railroads, and the water in the area. Start business parks in communities: Utica, LaSalle, Ottawa, Spring Valley, and Mendota. Ottawa wants retail; warehousing and industrial at the other locations.
- As a developer, Mr. Gahlberg shared this advice:
 - Make friends with the municipalities.
 - Earn their trust.
 - Give them our vision.
 - Give help where needed.
 - We need to change the way we think about everything.
 - Preserve our natural resources.
 - Build for our needs and retrofit some buildings.

- Empty buildings; the way that they were designed is why they are empty.
- Continual sophistication is need for the buildings; an evolution of thinking that is beneficial for everybody.

Transitional Task Force Update

Ted VanSickle noted that a sign-up sheet was passed around for sponsors to pay for the cost of the breakfast for future meetings. Sponsors can have a five to ten-minute presentation and distribute handouts if they want. The location of the meetings will continue to be at IVCC, but the room will vary.

Warehousing & Distribution Certificate Program Update

Elaine Novak, Dean of Career & Technical Programs at IVCC, reported that a Warehousing & Distribution Certificate is just getting started at the College. A minimum of ten students is needed for a class to run, and registration is required at the start of the class. The Warehousing & Workforce Skills (WHS 1220) class scheduled 2/19/09 through 3/10/09 was recently cancelled due to low enrollment.

Pilot Program Update

Ted VanSickle reported that discussion is on-going with principals to get into the classrooms. We need to spark an interest in logistics and introduce the students to the industry. The more that we can share with the students, the better decisions they can make. A list of logistics career opportunities and job descriptions that could be distributed would be a good start. We can provide other information, such as compensation and wage ranges. Anyone wanting to be a part of the pilot program should contact Ted.

Website Update

DeAnna Carlson noted that the Website will be launched next week. The updated logos from IVCC were received.

Open Discussion

- SAVE THE DATE – April 21 is the Third Annual Economic Development Summit at Celebrations 150. The meeting includes lunch. A reminder notice was distributed about the Summit; information will also be on the Website.
- An Evaluation Sheet was distributed. Everyone was encouraged to complete the evaluation and also provide suggestions for future speakers and topics of interest on the form.
- All present were welcomed to the monthly NCILC meetings. The meetings are the third Thursday of the month, except December and July. To get on the mailing list to receive future notices, check with Christine Dahm.
- Next month, the meeting on March 19 will be held in room C-316 at IVCC.
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.