

NORTHWEST MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

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*A Regional Association of Illinois
Municipalities and Townships
Representing a Population of Over One Million*

MEMBERS

Antioch
Arlington Heights
Bannockburn
Barrington
Bartlett
Buffalo Grove
Deer Park
Deerfield
Des Plaines
Elk Grove Village
Evanston
Fox Lake
Glencoe
Glenview
Grayslake
Hanover Park
Highland Park
Hoffman Estates
Kenilworth
Lake Bluff
Lake Forest
Lake Zurich
Libertyville
Lincolnshire
Lincolnwood
Morton Grove
Mount Prospect
Niles
Northbrook
Northfield
Northfield Township
Palatine
Park Ridge
Prospect Heights
Rolling Meadows
Schaumburg
Skokie
South Barrington
Streamwood
Vernon Hills
West Dundee
Wheeling
Wilmette
Winnetka

President
Eric Smith
Buffalo Grove

Vice-President
Paul Hoefert
Mount Prospect

Secretary
Senta Plunkett
Wilmette

Treasurer
Scott Anderson
Barrington

Executive Director
Mark L. Fowler

NWMC Board

Minutes

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

6:00 p.m.

NWMC Offices and Via Videoconference

I. Call to Order

President Smith called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

President Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Ms. Durso called the roll.

Members Present:

Arlington Heights, Manager Randy Recklaus
Barrington, Manager Scott Anderson
Buffalo Grove, President Eric Smith
Deer Park, President Greg Rusteberg
Des Plaines, Manager Dorothy Wisniewski
Elk Grove Village, Manager Matt Roan
Glencoe, Manager Phil Kiraly
Hanover Park, President Rod Craig
Highland Park, Mayor Nancy Rotering
Hoffman Estates, Mayor Bill McLeod
Kenilworth, Manager Kathy Thake
Libertyville, Mayor Donna Johnson
Morton Grove, Administrator Chuck Meyer
Mount Prospect, Mayor Paul Hoefert
Niles, Trustee Ajay Mody
Northbrook, Interim Manager Jim Hawkins
Northfield, Trustee Matt Galin
Palatine, Manager Reid Ottesen
Schaumburg, Mayor Tom Dailly
Skokie, Mayor Ann Tennes
Streamwood, Manager Sharon Caddigan
West Dundee, Trustee Andy Yuscka
Wheeling, Manager Jon Sfondilis
Wilmette, President Senta Plunkett
Winnetka, Manager Kristin Kazenas

Others in Attendance:

Pat Eaves Heard, Nicor Gas
Neil James, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
Al Stefan, Christopher B. Burke Engineering Ltd.
Mark Fowler, NWMC Executive Director

Larry Bury, NWMC Deputy Director
Eric Czarnota, NWMC Program Manager for Transportation
Ellen Dayan, NWMC Purchasing Director
Marina Durso, NWMC Executive Assistant
Brian Larson, NWMC Program Associate for Transportation
Chris Staron, NWMC Policy Director

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2026

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 13 meeting was made by Mayor Craig. The motion was seconded by Mayor Johnson and unanimously approved.

V. President's Report – Eric Smith, NWMC President and President, Village of Buffalo Grove

A. FY 2025-2026 NWMC Annual Report

Mr. Fowler reported that the FY 2025-2026 NWMC Annual Report was released earlier in the summer, and he encouraged members to share the document with their fellow elected officials and staff.

B. FY 2026-2027 NWMC Work Plan – Q1 Update

Mr. Fowler provided the first quarter update to the FY 2026-2027 NWMC Work Plan, which he noted covers the time period of May through July. He said the structure of the quarterly reporting will change for the year to focus on implementation of the new strategic plan followed by substantive issues.

Regarding the strategic plan, he noted that staff has transitioned all publications to Constant Contact, completed required cross training of critical functions and recorded baseline numbers to measure future improvements. Next steps will be to develop an action alert strategy for consideration by the Legislative Committee and schedule the lobbying training session with the Conference's consultant, Anderson Legislative Consulting.

Legislative highlights for the quarter included issuing legislative updates through the end of the spring session, monitoring and reporting on housing legislation, the state budget/local government impacts, e-mobility legislation, the transit trailer bill and the Conference's position on the Governor's BUILD agenda. Transportation highlights for the quarter included hosting the annual Bike/Ped committee field trip in June through Rolling Meadows, monitoring/analyzing the e-mobility legislation as well as the NITA transition. Mr. Fowler noted that staff moderated a panel on e-mobility at the Transport Chicago conference and began discussion of an update to the NWMC Multimodal Transportation Plan. Regarding the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative program, Mr. Fowler noted that staff unfortunately had to cancel the Supplier Showcase due to lack of participation with members and vendors but continued successful promotion of the Sourcewell program and opportunities to members.

C. FY 2026-2027 NWMC Committee Assignments

President Smith reported that the Executive Board recommended approval of the FY 2026-2027 NWMC Committee Assignment list. He thanked everyone who volunteered to serve on the committees and especially the committee chairs/co-chairs for their leadership.

Motion to approve the recommendation was made by Mayor Rotering. The motion was seconded by Mayor Johnson and unanimously approved.

D. FY 2026-2027 NWMC Board Meeting Dates

President Smith noted the NWMC membership meeting schedule for FY 2026-2027.

E. NWMC Fall Surplus Vehicle & Equipment Auction

Ms. Dayan reported that the live NWMC Fall Surplus Vehicle and Equipment Auction is scheduled for October 13 at America's Auto Auction in Crestwood. She thanked Lake Bluff, Lincolnshire, Harvey and Tinley Park for registering to date and encouraged other members to participate. She said

that vehicles and equipment can be listed for sale right up to the morning of the auction day and noted that the final live auction of the year will be held on Tuesday, December 15.

F. 2026 NWMC Membership Satisfaction Survey

Mr. Bury discussed the results from the 2026 NWMC Membership Satisfaction Survey. He said that only twenty-seven responses were received and said that the timing of issuing the survey in August led to a low response. He said that staff would look at more advantageous timing of next year's survey.

He reported that one hundred percent of the respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied with their membership; nearly one hundred percent felt the Conference was moving in the right direction and over ninety percent felt that the Conference adds value to their community, the dues were reasonable for the services provided and would recommend membership in the Conference to other communities. He also reviewed statistics for satisfaction of the programs and communications offered by the organization.

G. NWMC Appointments to the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Executive Board

President Smith reviewed the history of the appointment process to determine the NWMC delegates to the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Executive Board. He said there was a request to revisit the process and determine interest in potentially changing it to have the NWMC delegates serve for a longer period of time, thus providing a more consistent voice for the organization and the ability to serve in Caucus leadership.

He said the Executive Board recommended that a Mayor from the Executive Board submit their name to serve as the delegate. He said that the appointment would be reviewed annually by the Executive Board and Board of Directors but would be eligible to remain on the MMC Executive Board until that person no longer serves as mayor or resigns the position.

Mr. Fowler provided an update to the memorandum in the meeting packet. He said the recommendation is two-fold; first to change the long-standing policy regarding the NWMC appointments to the Mayors Caucus Executive Board with an annual review and second to appoint the NWMC delegate and alternate delegate. He said both Mayor Craig and Mayor Rotering submitted their names and discussed the position for which they requested consideration. Based on that discussion, Mr. Fowler said the recommendation is to appoint Mayor Rotering as the NWMC delegate, with Mayor Craig serving as the alternate delegate.

President Smith requested a motion to change the Conference's appointment process and policy. Motion to approve the change in policy was made by Mayor McLeod and seconded by Mayor Johnson. Mayor Dailly and Mayor McLeod expressed support for changing the appointment process to have a longer term of service. Mayor Rotering noted that other Caucus members had long serving board members. Mayor Craig commended Mayor Rotering's service to the Caucus and expressed support for the change. There being no further discussion on the motion, it was unanimously approved.

President Smith requested a motion to appoint Mayor Rotering as the delegate to the Caucus, with Mayor Craig as the alternate delegate. Motion to approve the appointments was made by Mayor Tennes. The motion was seconded by Mayor Johnson and unanimously approved. President Smith thanked both Mayors for the willingness to represent the Conference.

VI. Priority Issues

**A. Legislative Committee – Donna Johnson, Mayor, Village of Libertyville, Co-Chair and Ann Tennes, Mayor, Village of Skokie, Co-Chair
NWMC Housing Legislative Strategy**

President Smith thanked Mayor Johnson and Mayor Tennes for volunteering to serve as the new committee co-chairs.

Mr. Staron provided an update on the housing issue since the end of the legislative session in May. He said the Executive Board reaffirmed the need to continue engagement and education of legislators

on the housing issue and directed the legislative committee to further refine the strategy prior to the veto and a potential lame duck session as well as the spring 2027 session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Staron gave a brief history of actions taken by various entities around the housing issue. He said that the Conference listed preservation of local zoning in the 2026 NWMC Legislative Program and formed a Housing Working Group in early January. In February, Governor Pritzker introduced his Building Up Illinois Developments (BUILD) agenda, which included numerous bills to aggressively preempt local land use authority. He detailed the legislation comprising the BUILD agenda and changes made as the legislation made its way through the spring session. Ultimately, he said that none of the bills comprising the BUILD agenda passed; however, funding was adopted as part of the state budget to fund infrastructure, downpayment assistance and missing middle affordable housing program.

Mr. Staron reviewed a response issued by the Governor's office to municipal feedback on BUILD, noting a reframing of the issue and portraying the legislation as reasonable and creating a statewide baseline. Over the summer, he said that the Illinois Municipal League requested participants for an Ad Hoc Housing Committee. In response, the Conference forwarded three names for consideration, but he said that no decisions have been made as of yet. Mr. Staron said that IML was also working with the Realtors Association but ultimately could not agree on a joint strategy, with each group issuing guidance to accelerate housing development. He said the Realtors indicated that they will also pursue housing legislation, so this issue will continue to evolve. In addition, he referred to a Capitol Fax article that indicated legislators were focusing on specific aspects of the housing issue and continuing discussions.

Mr. Staron briefed members on the activities of the Conference over the summer. He reviewed the document approved by the Board in May but noted that it was not presented as legislation did not advance by the adjournment deadline. He said that staff has been collecting data via surveys from members showing that municipalities are addressing housing shortages. He said staff is mapping the results and creating data sheets for use in discussions with legislators. Mr. Staron gave a national perspective, noting that over half of the states have passed legislation usurping local zoning and land use authority in addressing housing supply.

Mr. Staron reviewed the dates of the upcoming veto session and noted that, while indications are that housing legislation will not be ready for consideration, it is important to be prepared and engage with legislators now. He said there may be a lame duck session in early January, concluding the term of this General Assembly. Post inauguration, any housing issues will have to be included in newly filed legislation. Finally, Mr. Staron said that the legislative committee will refine the message, discuss legislator engagement and the tools needed to inform legislators at their September 16 meeting.

**B. Transportation Committee – Paul Hoefert, Mayor, Village of Mount Prospect, Co-Chair and Lara Sanoica, Mayor, City of Rolling Meadows, Co-Chair
Northern Illinois Transit Authority Update**

President Smith thanked Mayor Sanoica and Mayor Hoefert for co-chairing the committee this year.

Mr. Czarnota provided an update on the Northern Illinois Transit Authority, which officially replaced the Regional Transportation Authority on September 1. He reviewed the composition of the NITA board and service boards and the new funding that will be generated for transit service. He said that NWMC members met on August 18 with Luis Montgomery, the northern Cook County appointee to the NITA and Pace boards. In that meeting, he said members stressed the importance of an ongoing dialogue on regional transit service improvements. Mr. Czarnota said that staff would look to schedule meetings with the NITA/Pace members representing NWMC members located in the collar counties.

Mr. Czarnota listed critical NITA transition deadlines over the next fifteen months. He reported that IDOT contracted with the Boston Consulting Group on September 1 to assist with the transition. He said NITA's first board meeting will take place on September 10, where a board chair will be selected as well as discussion held to hire an executive director. Beginning in October, he said NITA must

establish a transition working group to develop a capital program and evaluate paratransit coordination. Finally, Mr. Czarnota reported that NITA must have a process for procuring a universal fare card and develop service standards in 2027.

Mr. Fowler thanked the NWMC members who served on the RTA and service boards and whose tenures ended on September 1, including Mayor Sanoica on the RTA Board, Mayor Craig on the Metra Board and Mayor McLeod and former Wilmette Village President Chris Canning on the Pace Board.

VII. Other Business

No report.

VIII. For the Good of the Order

No report.

IX. Next Meeting

President Smith announced that the next NWMC Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 6:00 p.m. at the NWMC Offices and via videoconference.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Hoefert moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor McLeod and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.