

**Economic Recovery Commission
Minutes - First Commission Meeting
November 2, 2009
Thompson Center, Room 9-031**

ATTENDEES:

COMMISSIONERS (IN PERSON): Mohina Ahluwalia, Marvin Bemby, Charles Bernardini, Scott Bernstein, Robert Blackwell, Jr., Gino Bonanotte, George Burciaga, Ellen Carnahan, Mike Carrigan, Dennis Cradit, Omar Duque, Judith Gethner, Ross Glickman, Jacky Grimshaw, Chris Melvin, Joseph Persky, Quintin Primo III, Hedy Ratner, Jim Reynolds, Jerry Roper, Alexander Rorke (co-chair), Sona Wang, Elaine Weiss, Matthew Wetstein, Brian Vandenberg (for Lee Shapiro)

COMMISSIONERS (BY PHONE): Dennis Chookaszian, Hank Eisenga, Zachary Hoffman, John Spring (co-chair), Greg Webb

EXECUTIVE SERVICE CORPS CONSULTANTS: John Brodson, Heidi Biederman, Don Nylin, Satish Joshi, Margo Sorgman, John Bierbusse, Ronald Messina, John Donaker, Jr., Irving Miller, Don Schwarz, Ken Yoshitani, Pamela Pound, Joseph Ross

NORTHWESTERN GRADUATE STUDENTS: Molly Culhane, Joan Hollick, Thomas Jacks, Elizabeth Soehren Jones

STATE OF ILLINOIS STAFF: Governor Pat Quinn, Jack Lavin, Greg Wass, Jerry Stermer, Kristi Lafleur, Jennifer Weisensee, Brendan Dailey

Call to order: 2:10 p.m. by Alex Rorke

Introduction (by phone) of commission Co-chair, John Spring. Mr. Spring was unable to attend in person due to his attendance at a ground-breaking ceremony celebrating a new \$25 million “green” construction project in Quincy.

Agenda:

1. Welcome and “thank you” from Jack Lavin
The work of the commission is intended to bring ideas and innovation from a broad range of business, community, and government leaders. The Commissioners are encouraged to share their best ideas and to tap into other sources and resources for innovative thinking.
2. Introduction and Mission Discussion by Alex Rorke
 - A. Welcome and thank you
 - B. Introductions — all attendees introduced themselves.
 - C. Overview of the Commission purpose and function:

- The ultimate purpose of the commission is to make recommendations to the Governor on how to accelerate sustainable economic recovery in Illinois. In working to achieve this goal, the Co-chairs would like the Commissioners to:
 - (1) study what other states/countries are doing in the area of economic development and identify best practices, and
 - (2) develop ideas on how to introduce the best ideas into the Illinois economy.
- Committees have already been set up (Education, Global Markets, Government, Infrastructure, Innovation, and Sustainability). Each committee is staffed by 2 consultants from Executive Service Corps of Chicago (ESC) and 1 graduate student from Northwestern University.
- Committees should meet at least monthly. Face-to-face contact is preferable but not required.
- Both full Commission and committee meetings are subject to the open meetings act. So, committee meetings should be coordinated through Jennifer Weisensee to assure compliance.
- The final Commission report is due by the end of February.
- Most of the work will be done at the committee level; however there will be other full Commission meetings. The next full Commission meeting is tentatively scheduled for January — possibly January 12.
- Committee reports and recommendations will be shared among the entire Commission to maximize “cross-pollination” and develop one coherent final report.
- One goal for the Commission is to be highly transparent and to invite input from the entire community. The website, economy.illinois.gov has been set up for this purpose. Suggestions that come to the website will be routed to the appropriate committee.

D. Questions from the Commissioners addressed the following issues/concerns:

- *Where should meetings be held?*

Since all committee meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Act, the location needs to be publicly accessible. Greg Wass requested that committee meetings be coordinated through Jennifer Weisensee to assure compliance with Open Meeting regulations.
- *What research resources are available? Are there up-to-date briefing materials available to Commission? May I use/share my own resources and case studies?*

ESC consultants will oversee research conducted by the NU graduate students. The Commission will have access to State of Illinois resources and information. State of Illinois staff members will be available to make presentations, and Alex Rorke also plans to bring in outside speakers. Commission members with access to non-public information are welcome to share and use it as appropriate. The Chicago Olympic Committee has excellent information to share on how Chicago’s image on the global stage.

- *There seem to be lots of opportunities from cross-fertilization of ideas among the committees.*

There is clear intent to assure that committees communicate with each other as ideas evolve. Coordination among the ESC consultants and by the co-chairs will facilitate this dynamic.

- *What, specifically, are the goals of the commission? What is the final work product? What will happen to the commission report after it is generated?*

We want to combine “thinking big” with delivering practical, measurable short term wins. The Commission has the opportunity to take a deep look at problems and opportunities in the State — to develop an approach that propels Illinois from 43rd in employment growth (according to some studies) to a leading state in economic development.

The specific deliverable is a set of recommendations for improving the state’s economic climate and economic development performance. The Commission will decide what specific economic measure to use — jobs, GDP, etc.

Commissioners encourage their peers not to get bogged down in the specifics of “how” to fund initiatives. There is a belief that great ideas will attract investment. The hope is that the “document” is a roadmap for initiating executive orders, developing legislation, and setting priorities.

- *Who is the “audience” for this report?*

The governor, legislators, economic development groups, workforce development groups.

- *Will anyone other than committee members participate in committee meetings?*

Alex Rorke will “pop in” to meetings, not to direct discussion but rather to facilitate “cross-fertilization” of ideas. ESC consultants may do that as well.

- *What technology is available to help us communicate?*

The public website (economy.illinois.gov) is designed to assure transparency in the commission’s work and to encourage ideas and input from a variety of sources. At the first committee meetings, we will provide information on how to use the SharePoint site set up for the Commission. We want to try to minimize using email for communication among the Commissioners and consultants.

- *Can I continue doing business with the state while I serve on the commission?*

Yes. The commission is an advisory committee only. This commission is not subject to the Revolving Door and Lobbying Bans.

E. Remarks by Governor Quinn

F. General meeting adjourned at 3:10. Committees coordinated calendars for the first round of committee meetings.