

## Texas Municipal League Annual Conference

October 9-12, 2018 Report

### Attendees:

Sereniah Breland, Jim McDonald, Rudy Metayer and Doug Weiss

### Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>

Councilmember Weiss notes that he and Councilmember Metayer attended “Walk to School Day” festivities at Murchison Elementary School and arrived to the conference in time to see Major Dan “Noonan” Rooney’s speech about Folds of Honor.

Attended lunch with J.L. Powers.

### 2:00-3:15 P.M. Concurrent Sessions

1. Reinventing a South Texas City
2. How to Advocate for Your City
3. Smart City Strategies

Councilmember Weiss noted from this session:

-use of new agenda software with a focus on small screens: phones & tablets. Streaming needs to be supports on these devices.

-Frisco does Facebook Live event immediately after each council meeting to discuss what happened. Sounds like our Pflugerville Pfocus.

- Ask ourselves, what should we do while we are small that will be exponentially more difficult when we are huge? Example of GIS Map layers; easier to establish while a small city and to build during growth. Imagine trying to take an inventory of every regulatory sign when we are 75 square miles. Start now.

4. Small Cell Node Technology: A Public Works Perspective
5. Finding Gold at the Intersection of Brands, Events, and Cities
6. Realizations and Reflections Post Hurricane Harvey

### 3:30-4:45 P.M. Concurrent Sessions

1. Small Cities Roundtable on Economic Development
2. Love Your Trolls: Embrace Your Social Media Detractors
3. Your City’s Legal Counsel: Working with Your Lawyers
4. Road to 2020-How Cities Can Prepare
5. Be a Game Changer
6. Understanding Harassment and Discrimination in the #Metoo Era

Reception with TXU

Dinner with Cobb Fendley

## **Thursday, October 11**

### 9:00-10:15 A.M. Concurrent Sessions

1. It's Your Fort Worth and We Want to Hear from You
2. Legislative Messaging: Our Home, Our Decisions
3. Race, Equity, and Leadership
4. Digital Connectivity and Your City  
Councilmember Weiss noted from this session: Big focus on the ability to check out wi-fi hotspots and how to use grant money to acquire them.
5. Strategic Facility Planning for Small Cities
6. Public Safety is a Community Wide Goal

### 10:30-11:45 A.M. Concurrent Sessions

1. Stay on Target: Cities and Firearms
2. Neighborhoods First
3. Ethics in a World of Social Media
4. Be Green to Save Green- Powering Communities with Renewable Energy
5. TX-PACE Stimulates Millions in Building Retrofits at No Cost to Cities  
Councilmember Weiss noted from this session:
  - Financing programs are available that tie back to the taxing district.
  - Allows aging facilities to improve facilities to save energy at low interest costs. The savings may more than cover the cost.
  - Redevelops areas by improving run-down buildings
  - “Like a one-building PID”
6. Hurricane Harvey and Why the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System Worked

### Noon-11:45 A.M. Luncheon and Keynote Speaker

1. Touching Elbows, Changing Lives- Bertice Berry

### 2:00-3:15 P.M. Concurrent Sessions

1. Neighborhood Revitalization
2. 2019 Legislative Outlook
3. Let's Talk About Cybersecurity
4. Infrastructure Crisis
5. Who Pays for Roads in Texas  
Councilmember Weiss noted from this session:
  - Presentation of TxDOT funding and options.
  - “State Infrastructure Bank” offers loans to cities.
  - May be better option than Certificates of Obligation
  - Below-market interest rates
  - No fees

- Payoff any time
  - 3 to 20 year terms
  - Rates between 2.4 & 3.7%
6. Promote Safety and Confidence in Legal System

#### 3:30-4:45 P.M. Concurrent Sessions

1. Brick and Mortar Retail is Not Dead, Just Evolving
2. Fort Worth's Education Initiative
3. Public Finance: A Primer for Non-Finance Officials and Managers
4. More Than a Place on a Map: Shaping Your City's Identity Flood Mitigation

Mr. Metayer served on the 2018 TML Resolutions Committee that met on Thursday, October 11, 2018. The TML Resolutions Committee is a key component of the League's policy development process. Resolutions adopted by conference delegates help to form the League's official positions on a wide range of important municipal issues. Mr. Metayer was able to participate on the Resolutions Committee and have a voice and vote in these decisions that will have significant impact for all Texas Cities in the upcoming Legislative session.

Councilmember Weiss attended the TML Resolutions Committee meeting in case the City of Pflugerville needed to present the Recycling resolution that was approved by the City Council on October 9, 2018. He reports that because the resolution was "late" a procedural vote to "suspend the rules" was required in order for it to be heard and the procedural vote failed.

Social with Linebarger  
Dinner with Gallagher Construction Services.

#### **Friday, October 12**

Councilmember Weiss reports that he spent most of the time on the exhibition floor and saw these vendors of interest: Household Hazardous Waste collection (some companies will pick up at the residents' doors); Boardbook (software for tablets to push the meeting packet); Playground vendors; Outdoor exercise equipment; Skate parks; Solar powered park and trail lighting; Solar powered security camera trailers.

#### 9:00-10:15 A.M. Concurrent Sessions

1. Small Cities Roundtable on Regional Cooperation
2. Infrastructure: Passing the Buck or Partnership Opportunity
3. The State of Water
4. Risk Management of Parks and Recreational Facilities

#### 10:30-11:45 A.M. Closing Brunch and Keynote Speaker

What We Love About Texas Towns- Chet Garner, Host and Creator, The Daytripper