

**South Central Assembly
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**

September 19, 2007

Room 101, Educational Activities Building
Penn State Capital Campus, Middletown

Officers:

[e] Honorable Stephen Reed
[p] Honorable Nancy Besch
[] Honorable John Brenner
[p] Steven Peterson
[p] Honorable R. Glenn Snyder
[] Honorable Jo Ellen Litz

[] Stephen Powell
[] George Rettew
[p] Rusty Shunk
[e] Steve Snell
[] Honorable Ted Streeter
[] Honorable Michael Sturla
[p] Honorable. Rose Marie Swanger
[] Honorable William Troxell
[] James Turner, Esq.
[] Boyd Wolff
[] Lori Yeich
[] Merrill Yohe
[p] Sherri Zimmerman

Members

[p] Honorable Robert Anspach**
[] Honorable Bruce Barclay
[p] Mark Berg
[] Daniel Betancourt
[p] Harrison Bink
[e] Gail D'Angelo
[] Honorable Nick DiFrancesco
[] Honorable G. Warren Elliott
[] Michael Fesen
[] Honorable Mauree Gingrich
[] Honorable Richard Gray
[] Barbara Groce
[p] Francis B Haas, Esq.
[e] Prof. Irving Hand
[] Honorable Molly Henderson
[p] Roger T. Karsnitz, Sr.
[p] George Klaus, Jr.¹
[p] Raymond Klein
[] Julie Lalo²
[] Joe McCarthy
[] Skip Memmi
[] Honorable Lori Mitrick
[p] Russ Montgomery
[p] Penny Myers
[e] Susan Parry³
[] Honorable Cheryl Plummer

Representing Board members:

** Melissa Quinones

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Others Attending:

Craig Zumbrun (Executive Director)
Stephen Scanlon (Staff)

Attendance Key:

e- excused absence (prior contact)
p - present

1 Ex Officio USDA

2 Ex Officio 10,000 Friends of PA

3 Ex Officio RC&D

Call to Order

The Vice-Chair, Ms. Besch, called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Minutes

Motion by Mr. Berg

Seconded by Mr. Bink

Approve the minutes of the July 18 Board meeting.
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Discussion: One minor correction

Vote on motion: **Unanimous approval**

Executive Director's Report

- 1.) The Healthy Adams County report is complete. We hope to use this and the Perry housing report as a membership tool for further contracting work and to entice membership commitment. Special thanks need to be extended to Diana Kerr and Harrison Bink for their consulting roles.
- 2.) PLTF has been asked to speak to the Human Relations Commission at its state wide meeting on the impacts of predatory lending. PHFA is offering a new mortgage relief tool for individuals.
- 3.) The Assembly task force (Ray Klein) discussed moving into energy conservation and energy generation as part of the Assembly's tool for encouraging intergovernmental cooperation, looking for marketing analytical reviews of multi- municipal and county housing delivery, policing, health and human services, land use and growth management, and planning and zoning.
- 4.) RENEW PA extended an invitation to its December 5 invitational summit on government restructuring (Brookings recommendations).
- 5.) Corridor One: Secretary Beihler has denied support. Senator Spector is looking to offer federal financial support.
- 6.) 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania was appointed to a new task force on program review criteria for recommendations for Independence, in Lancaster County
- 7.) The Housing Alliance of PA has proposed a PA Housing Trust Fund and urges support for national housing trust fund legislation.
- 8.) George Klaus and Sherri Zimmerman of the Assembly summit committee report favorable progress.
- 9.) Smart Growth York/Adams is working on launching itself as a new entity.

10.)The Assembly has been advising Smart Growth Lancaster's new executive director, Metta Barbour, on regional transportation issues and how that impacts land use.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee:

Mr. Zumbrun reported that there has been a checking account imbalance and that the operating account is down to \$305.

Fall Summit Committee

Mr. Klaus reported for the summit advisory committee. As part of the application process DCED was concerned about the viability of the Assembly. A \$50,000 budget was submitted to include \$25,000 from DCED in addition to the \$5,000 that has been pledged from the City of Harrisburg, \$8,500 expected from sponsors/exhibitors, \$5000 from registrations, and in-kind donations valued at \$6,500.

Deborah Kravitz from IUP will act as the paid coordinator. She is part of the program run by Sherri Zimmerman. The summit will be held at the Wildwood Center on December 12 and 13, 2007. The theme: Barriers, Bridges and Best Practices.

Funding will be sought from Sovereign Bank and Citizens Bank, Team PA and The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. Letters are going out to all local councils of government including an offer of free exhibit space. This will help us to build partnerships with them.

Ms. Zimmerman noted that it is time to begin working on speakers and topics to the theme.

Mr. Klaus requested further letters of endorsement, including a request to Ms. Quinones for a letter from the City of Lebanon.

Mr. Klaus anticipates a reply from DCED soon. If approved, the DCED grant would provide funds retroactively for summit expenses.

The summit budget provides that there will be follow up activity after the conference. \$4,000 will be directed toward that. The budget allows the Assembly to direct \$5,000 of newsletter expenses to be charged to the grant.

Ms. Zimmerman indicated that Save the Date flyers are being prepared and request contacts for potential exhibitors and speakers.

Mr. Klaus encouraged personal invitations as well as general invites from the Assembly. We need to "work with local players to send an endorsement to their people, to their commissioners and county planning heads." DCED is providing its mailing list for local government contracts.

Mr. Montgomery suggested a three track conference format to follow the “bridges, barriers and best practices theme.”

Mr. Peterson emphasized that the goal is to provide the Assembly with action steps.

Mr. Klaus noted that 10,000 Friends is doing a by invitation conference the week before. He did not think it would draw many local officials but did think the Assembly could feed off of it. Mr. Montgomery urged we connect with 10,000 Friends to work on collaboration.

Housing and Community Development

Mr. Klaus reported that the quarterly meeting strategy remains viable but that he has had no time to devote to it this year. He welcomed anyone else to take on the leadership role if they have the time to put into it.

Predatory Lending Task Force

Ms. D’Angelo reported that meeting attendance has been decreasing. At the last meeting it was decided to focus on preventative education. Thought is being given to spending the balance of task force funds on a conference and for updating contact lists.

Reflecting back on the summit theme, Ms. D’Angelo asked if the summit will initiate new ideas and ways to focus the Assembly. Mr. Klaus stated that the Assembly needs at least ½ time daytime staff. The old Assembly as it existed was a viable system.

Mr. Klein reflected that the Assembly has the potential to act as a mechanism to provide certain kinds of services to municipalities at a lower cost than they are currently paying. For example, controls on the cost of electricity will soon cease. One service component could provide beneficial services to municipalities. Ms. Besch noted that there is an active energy consortium. Mr. Klein asked “what is the penetration into the market? Is there room for another entity?” Ms. Besch noted that it could only be for not for profits and governments. Ms. Swanger indicated that there is a discussion within state government about how to incentivize energy production and savings.

By-Laws

Motion by Mr. Shunk

Seconded by Mark Berg

Accept the revisions to the By-Laws as presented to the Board

Discussion: Mr. Scanlon reminded members that the Ms. Zimmerman had been tasked with making changes to the previously revised By-Laws based on discussion during the July 18 board meeting.

Vote on motion: **Unanimous approval**

Following the vote it was noted that the Nominating Committee needs to work out how to bring membership in line with the revision. Ms. Zimmerman suggested attrition would be one method

to scale down membership. Mr. Zumbrun suggested the Nominating Committee wait until December to determine who self-winnows. Mr. Scanlon was tasked with providing the nominating committee with a report indicating where board members fall within the new membership categories.

Ms. Swanger reported that state Representatives may need to be made ex officio members because the state ethics commission recommends Representatives not serve on boards applying for state funds because that would be a conflict. Mr. Haas indicated that just abstaining should be sufficient. Ms. Swanger indicates that there is wide discussion on the issue, that it may not be so simple. Mr. Haas was asked to research the question.

New Business
None

Motion to adjourn
Vote on motion: **Unanimous approval.**
Meeting ended at 4:40 p.m.

Next meeting date:
November 28, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. in EAB 101 at Penn State, Harrisburg.

Minutes prepared by Assembly staff