



South Central Assembly
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
November 13, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.
Penn State University - Harrisburg

Officers:

[p] Jo Ellen Litz
[p] Steven Peterson
[] Glenn Snyder
[] Raymond Klein
[p] Nancy Besch

Members

[] Robert Anspach
[e] Mark Berg
[p] Jeffrey Bergsten
[] Daniel Betancourt
[e] Harrison Bink
[e] John Brenner (Alt. Kevin Schreiber)
[p] Gail D'Angelo
[] Michael Fesen
[] Mike Folmer (Alt. Fred Sembach)
[p] Mauree Gingrich (Alt. Richie Schwartz)
[] Richard Gray
[e] Barbara Groce
[] Francis B Haas
[e] Irving Hand
[p] Deborah Himes
[p] Roger T. Karsnitz
[p] George Klaus¹
[p] Julie Lalo² (Alt: Josh Karns)
[e] Joe McCarthy
[p] Skip Memmi
[p] Russ Montgomery
[e] Penny Myers
[p] Susan Parry³

[p] Stephen Powell
[p] Stephen Reed (Alt: Ed Nielsen)
[] George Rettew
[] Christopher Reiley
[p] Rusty Shunk
[p] Ann Simonetti
[t] Steve Snell
[] Ted Streeter
[] Michael Sturla
[p] Rose Marie Swanger
[] Ken Taylor
[] William Troxell
[] Boyd Wolff
[p] Lori Yeich (Alt: Mike Piaskowski)
[] Merrill Yohe
[] Bob Ziobrowski
[t] Craig Zumbrun

Others Attending:

Sherri Zimmerman (Executive Director)
Stephen Scanlon (Staff)
Katie Talley (Intern)

Attendance Key:

Alt – alternate attending for member
e - excused absence (prior contact)
p - present
t - telephone

1 Ex Officio USDA

2 Ex Officio 10,000 Friends of PA

3 Ex Officio RC&D

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the November 13 board meeting were approved.

Report of the Executive Director

Appended

Regional Reports

Mr. Memmi reports that Dauphin County will be awarding grants from gaming proceeds in January.

Mr. Geiger reported on a recent expansion of the 17th St. Harrisburg Visitors' Bureau. There has been a 95% increase in funding from the state tourism department, which Mr. Nielsen interprets as a validation of Harrisburg doing what it needs to do. In addition, he reports that the city is making a deliberate effort to talk up positive stories in the city in an effort to respond to the current economic plight.

Mr. Karns noted that there is an opportunity with the incoming Obama administration. The Assembly would do well to take initiative on issues that need to be said. Then the Assembly would be in a good place to begin to speak for the region. He suggested a letter to the president elect outlining what the Assembly thinks are the issues regarding municipalities in the region.

Mr. Shunk, as chair of the Downtown Carlisle Association, reported on their experience with a proposed downtown Improvement District. There was a great plan but the downtown businesses didn't want to pay for it. The businesses argued that everybody should contribute (borough funds) because all benefit. The effort is tabled.

Ms. Litz reported that Lebanon County in order to address budget problems needs a tax increase as well as instituting layoffs. County interest income is down and delays in receiving funds from the state have contributed to the budgetary challenge.

Planning for Lebanon's 200th anniversary celebration for 2013 is in process. There are a lot of people doing brain storming at this point.

State report

Ms. Swanger reports that there will be an estimated \$3 billion state deficit during the current fiscal year. State income is not coming in as budgeted. The Republican caucus is discussing ways to reduce costs and not increase taxes.

Ms. Swanger voiced her concern that the state fund to offset physician liability insurance is not being released. Instead the funds are being used for governor's cover all Pennsylvanian's program.

Ms. Litz respectfully acknowledged the passing of Lieutenant Governor Katherine Baker-Knoll. She followed by noting that the state constitution has no provision to address the potential conflict of interest when the lieutenant governors' successor can fill two positions.

Nominations

Ms. Besch made a motion to accept the following nominations to the board of directors: Jeffrey Bergsten – Bucharth Horn (offering transportation representation)
Deborah Himes - Hershey Medical Center (offers policy development interest. She is in the IUP PhD program with Ms. Zimmerman.)

Appoint Jeffrey Bergsten and Deborah Himes to the Assembly board.

Kevin J. Schreiber has been appointed by Mayor Brenner as his alternate.

Ms. Zimmerman reviewed a list of active, inactive and status unknown board members. There remains the need to improve contact information.

Mr. Shunk seconded Ms. Besch's motion.

Vote: Approval unanimous.

Transportation:

Mr. Bergsten noted that Smart Transportation planning links land use with transportation. It is a new initiative in the state.

2008 Summit

Ms. Zimmerman reports that she is working to finish reporting in order to be eligible for the DCED grant.

Health Insurance Pooling

Mr. Peterson reports that the Delaware Valley Health Insurance Trust (DVHIT) remains interested in working with the Assembly to promote its pooled insurance product. Misters Peterson and Klein are a small task force on this effort. They welcome new involvement requesting that Ms. Himes participate. They will proceed with George Beauchamp from DVHIT. Mr. Peterson noted that this could be a source of income without any apparent drawback.

Further Income

Ms. Zimmerman checked on the process for submitting the "WAM" application from Rep Swanger. The next deadline is December 18, 2008. Ms. Zimmerman will try to complete the application by this deadline.

Board Retreat

The December 5 board mini retreat will be at the Dixon University Center from 10:00 – 2:00. It will be a strategic planning session. With a meal the cost will be approximately \$500. Ms. Zimmerman seeks sponsorship.

A six page pre-retreat questionnaire will be going out. Ms. Zimmerman emphasized that they need to be returned.

Good of the Order

Ms. Litz noted a parks event at Founders Hall at Hershey will be held in the spring. More information will be forthcoming.

Mr. Snell sought Assembly endorsement of the York/Adams Smart Growth coalition process. After a brief discussion about the inclusionary nature of the planning process

Mr. Snell made the motion:

The South Central Assembly endorses the mission of the York/Adams Smart Growth Coalition resolution.

Mr. Peterson seconded.

Discussion: The Assembly will convey its support through a letter from Ms. Litz.

Vote: Approval unanimous.

The full motion is appended to these minutes.

Mr. Karns reported that 10,000 Friends had just completed a report on multi-municipality planning in PA: *Plan Regionally, Implement Locally, An Evaluation of Multi-municipal Planning and Implementation in Pennsylvania*. Its theme is that our communities have outgrown our political boundaries and regional planning/zoning is a way to address the challenge. 10,000 Friends took a lead role in enabling legislation for multi-municipal planning. The report is a look back on what was the result. The result is promising with 175 regional comprehensive plans covering all of the state's regions and nearly all counties. But simply reaching an agreement on a plan is problematic. The process typically takes 2 ½ - 3 years and often includes changes in leadership. County leadership is a big help to develop these successful plans.

The report notes that there is the most room for improvement with zoning update implementation that follows the comp plan process. About 1/3 of municipalities do not follow through. Going forward, the emphasis needs to be put on implementation. The report recommends DCED shift priorities in funding to emphasize implementation.

The executive summary represents a variety of plans, not just the best. The complete report is available <http://www.10000friends.org/growth/mmp/#planregionally>. 10,000 Friends is working to engaging the media and getting the research out to groups actively involved in these efforts.

Mr. Karns reported that PA DOT is accepting applications for smart transportation projects. See www.smart-transportation.com for apps due Dec 15.

Ms. D'Angelo recommended that Ms. Zimmerman attend the Housing Alliance of PA conference to be paid from the Housing, Predatory Lending and Community Development budget. The board concurred.

Ms. Besch motioned:

<p>Mr. Klein shall be the South Central Assembly board treasurer in addition to his current role as board secretary.</p>

Seconded by Mr. Shunk.

Vote: Unanimous approval

Move to adjourn by Mr. Snell. Seconded by Mr. Shunk. Vote: Unanimous approval.

The next meeting of the board will take place at PSU-Harrisburg on January 21 from 2:00 – 5:00 at the Olmstead 3rd Floor Conference Room.

MEMORANDUM



Date: November 13, 2008
Subject: Executive Director's Report
From: Sherri B. Zimmerman, Executive Director
To: South Central Assembly Board of Directors

During the past two months the SCA staff has focused on the following priority areas:

Membership

- Worked with Nominating Committee to evaluate members status
- Prepared and mailed letters to inactive members
- Created Comprehensive SCA Membership Directory as a working document to track current and prior members, note status, etc.
- Recruited two new members

Communication

- Created distribution lists for more efficient email communication
- Initiated significant additions/revisions to SCA website
- Purchased hardware and software necessary for website management and production of SCA newsletter targeted for January
- Met with several additional current and former members regarding ideas and input.

Administration

- Recruited volunteer to assist with SCA coordination
- Completed and forwarded contract for IUP processing
- Completed audit of 2007 financial information
- Filed 2007 tax return
- Researched missing documents necessary to receive remaining KOZ funding
- Managed KOZ Program, responded to inquiries, and communicated program requirements
- Advanced planning for SCA Board retreat in December. Obtained facilitator, prepared meeting materials, secured meeting location,
- Initiated process for WAM application

Revenues

- Completed contract review for Energy Consortium and conducted electronic vote
- Met with Hampden Township Manager regarding participation in energy consortium
- Talked with Rich Hudic and Matt Zeigler of TEAM PA regarding revenue generating ideas

- Initiated significant additions/revisions to SCA website
- Met with Harry Krot, DCED, regarding requirements for additional funds from SCA Summit
- Working with DCED to draw down remaining funds from KOZ Program

Participation/Collaboration

- Participated in MTP Board orientation and Board meetings
- Met with Harry Krot (DCED) on Sept 23 re: Summit Follow-up
- Met with several potential facilitators re: the board retreat
- Met with Walt Lyon regarding regional mass transit issues
- Participated in Housing, Predatory Lending, and Community Development Committee
- Met with various KOZ program recipients
- Met with Janice Black and George Klaus regarding potential for SCA
- Met with Dave Black twice regarding organizational collaboration

RESOLUTION

Endorsing the York/Adams Regional Smart Growth Coalition

Administrators/board members: If your organization approves this resolution, please contact Shanna Wiest

(843-7891, fax 854-0720, shanna@rayac.com).

WHEREAS the York/Adams Regional Smart Growth Coalition's mission is to shape public policy in order to preserve those elements that make our communities great places in which to live. Those efforts include working toward:

- Encouraging environmentally sound development practices
- Sustaining healthy farms and abundant farmland
- Revitalizing our older urban areas
- Fostering economic growth that brings high quality jobs to our citizens
- Assuring reasonable housing costs that keep homeownership within reach of most households and providing an array of homeownership opportunities in our communities
- Matching infrastructure development with growth strategies
- Encouraging growth in areas where infrastructure currently exists

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I/we, _____, hereby support the York/Adams Regional Smart Growth Coalition for its mission and I/we urge community-wide participation in the future growth of our community.

GIVEN this ____ day of _____, 200__.

IN WITNESS THEREOF:

_____	Title _____
_____	Title _____
_____	Title _____
_____	Title _____